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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Govt aware of illegal tour operators

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Department of Commerce officials are on a fact-finding mission to develop and enforce regulations to curb the growing issue of illegal tour operators in the Commonwealth with sometimes questionable vehicle and liability insurance policies that business leaders believe do not adequately protect tourists and could harm the image of the CNMI's vital and only industry.

See GOVT on Page 4

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog pose for a photo with students and officials of the island's catholic schools. Next week has been proclaimed "Catholic Schools Week."

See story on Page 5

Pete A. 'recast' as policy advisor; Veterans Affairs' Palacios out

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Two heads rolled in the first move by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to reorganize his Cabinet, following the dozen plus courtesy resignations that hit his desk last week.

Tenorio

Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog have accepted the courtesy resignations of Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, according to a statement from the Office of the Governor. Torres has also accepted the resignation of Joseph M. Palacios, the executive officer for the Office of Military Liaison and Veteran's Affairs Office

The statement calls this "the first action" and "initial" reorganization of the Cabinet.

DPL's Tenorio, though, has been asked to remain on board and join Torres' office as a "policy advisor

See PETE on Page 4

Drought to impact water supply in Marianas

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Several drought impacts may affect the Commonwealth this year as the Marianas is entering the El Nino's dry phase.

According to the National Weather Service-Forecast Office Guam warning coordination meteorologist Chip Guard the drought could last until August.

"We don't know how bad

See DROUGHT on Page 4

$15.5M condo hotel to rise in Navy Hill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A group of investors is planning to construct this year a $15.5-million, 11-storey condotel or condominium hotel on Isla Drive near Whispering Palms School in Navy Hill.

Prime Pacific Properties Inc. is applying for a conditional use permit application with the Commonwealth Zoning Board for its project—Beacon Hill Condominium.

See CONDO on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program celebrated another beautiful completion ceremony at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last Monday.
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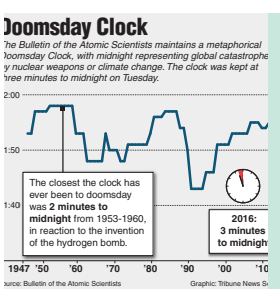
Doomsday Clock
The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists maintains a metaphorical Doomsday Clock, with midnight representing global catastrophe by nuclear weapons or climate change. The clock was kept at three minutes to midnight on Tuesday.
2:00
1:50
1:40
The closest the clock has ever been to doomsday was 2 minutes to midnight from 1953-1960, in reaction to the invention of the hydrogen bomb.
2016: 3 minutes to midnigh
1947 '50 '60 '70 '80 '90 '00 '10

WORLD
Rising tension between Russia and the U.S., North Korea's recent nuclear test and a lack of aggressive steps to address climate change are putting the world under grave threat.
» PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Robert Redford is pretty sure this is the best Sundance Film Festival they've ever had.
» PAGE 21

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Local

CUC board doesn't want rate increase

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Majority of the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said it does not want to "increase" rates for their residential customers even as the utilities company needs additional revenue to fund several items to recover as well as improve the company.

During a meeting, CUC's rate consultant, Economists.com, presented several more numbers and scenarios to the board and management of the company of what the rates could look like should they decide to try and recover from losses and fund improvement projects.

Items presented that CUC may consider in their adjustment were the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. agreement and bad debts increase, payment due to the Commonwealth Development Authority, Typhoon Soudelor restoration and mitigation, non-grant funded capital improvements projects, and power plant reserve fund contribution.

Discussions were made on these items and their corresponding possible rate adjustments should the board decide to fund them and at what amount.

The consultants also took into consideration possible revenues that would come to CUC should a bill that would require commercial establishments be hooked up to the company becomes law.

In the sample computation presented by the rate consultants, the potential rate adjustment was said to result to increased revenue for CUC's projects, while ratepayers would still pay bills that were lower than what they paid for in 2014 due to savings from oil.

During the meeting, director David Sablan said the rates are not so much of an increase but taking some savings to invest in the utility.

"I have already agreed with 0.129 per kilowatt hour. Increase is a terrible term to use but especially in my opinion, asking our residential, commercial, and government accounts, if we can take some of the savings from the oil reduction so that we can invest in their utility, I will prefer to look at it from that point rather than say it is an increase in rates," Sablan said.

» CUC needs additional revenue to recover losses, fund projects

"This is the dynamic that we need to provide to our management so that they don't hinder or have to decide, 'should I buy a transformer, buy some wire, or make payroll?' they have to make these kind of decisions because they don't have enough cash, they don't have resources. It's a reflection of our ability as policymakers not providing them the tools and the resources necessary to keep this utility running," he added.

Sablan then made a motion for the board to approve the model presented to them but pending final numbers of the rates.

"I move that we approve this model that has been presented to us with at least six adjustments that have been presented to us, with more refining of the numbers once we have a clearer picture of our financial situation sometime in March as presented to us by the chief financial officer. It's probable that some of these numbers will be adjusted but it is the model that we need to work on as we move forward to present a case to the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) sometime after March when the board finally agrees on what is going to be the final number," Sablan said when he clarified the motion.

He added that he only mentioned the 10 to 12 cents because that will probably be the number that they will be working on.

Director Diego Songao seconded the motion and director Chris Conception voted yes, but the motion ultimately failed following the majority of "no" votes from chair Adelina Roberto, vice chair Eric San Nicolas, and directors Joe Torres and Albert Taitano.

"I seconded the motion because I see the need that we need to take responsibility of our obligations, and event to strengthen our infrastructure and to restore back the expenditures that we have for Typhoon Soudelor with conditions to look at some of the resources," Songao send in an interview.

Roberto said they did not vote yes to the motion because they did not agree to the rate presented.

"We are not agreeing to that rate. We wanted to get our financial statement becuase we are not trying to increase the rate, we are just trying to recover the loss," Roberto said.

"My position is, for any increase, that will be a totally different story. We can probably start cutting salaries before we go with the increase, that will be my position," Torres said.

"I was very concerned that if those sections that proposed

See CUC on Page 4

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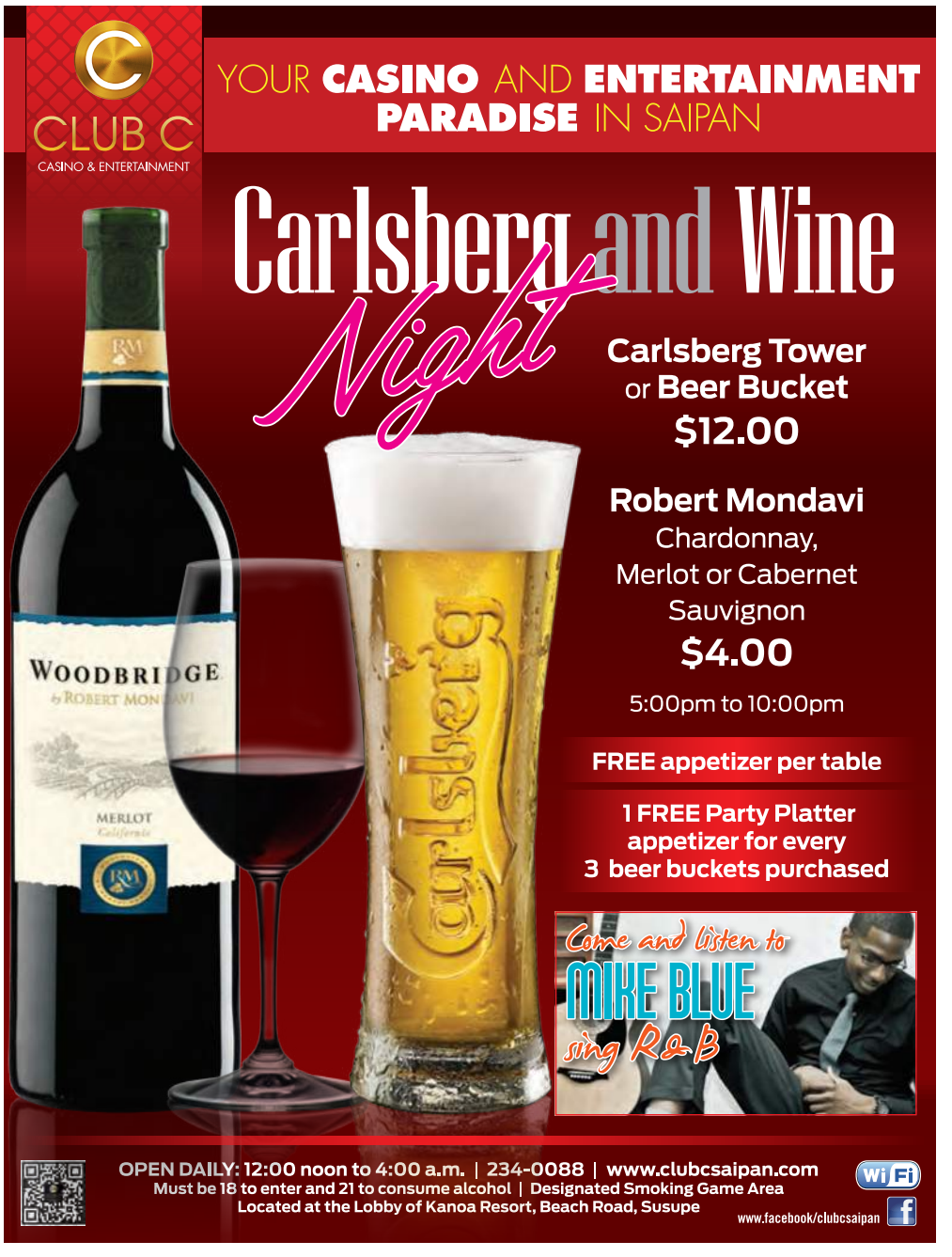
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CHCC staff, volunteer undergo FEMA ICS training

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Staff of the Commonwealth Health Center underwent a four-day training based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Incident Command Structure which would enable them to handle hazard incidents on emergency situations.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Various staff of the Commonwealth Health Center and a volunteer underwent a four-day training based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Incident Command Structure.

Twenty three staff including nurses, doctors, and public health staff and a volunteer representing both the Community Outreach Recovery Efforts and CNMI Medical Reserve Corps attended the training held at the Pacific Islands Club and received certificates.

ICS is a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

Following the ICS 300 and 400, the training would help CHCC responders to be capable in handing all hazard incidents on emergency situations and enable them in planning, coordinating, and responding effectively and efficiently.

Trainers were Tricia Shimizu, Patrick Lujan, and Frank Lujan who is a Training Instructor Port Authority and assistant to all Guam Homeland Security training and exercises. He is also a three-time trainer for ICS 300 and 400 with various agencies in the CNMI.

"What I expected CHCC staff to learn is that ICS is an everyday thing and that we shouldn't be afraid of it and it is a method and tool to control chaos," Lujan said.

According to CHCC's Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director Warren Villagomez, this is just one of the trainings that their staff will undergo.

"The turnout was great and it strengthens CHCC's capability to respond on all hazard incidents and we will eventually plan more training annually on response capabilities. We hope for a more participation of our stakeholders, volunteers, and partners in the future," Villagomez said.

Woman gets 14-day prison term for receiving stolen cigarettes on Tinian

A woman accused of conspiring with two other persons to sell cartons of stolen cigarettes at various stores on Tinian, has entered a guilty plea and was slapped with a 14-day prison term.

Elaine Mendiola Pangelinan signed a plea deal with the government and recently pleaded guilty to the offense of receiving stolen property, according to court documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja accepted Pangelinan's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Naraja sentenced the defendant to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except 14 days.

Pangelinan was given credit for time served of 14 days. It means she will no longer serve more prison time.

Pangelinan was placed on probation for one year and was required to pay a $250 fine, $25 court fee, and $100 probation fee.

Attorney Joe Hill served as court-appointed counsel for Pangelinan. Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government.

Police detective Shawn Lee SN. Borja stated in his report that police received a call on March 28, 2015, about a burglary case at Island Store on Tinian.

Police learned that 125 cartons of cigarettes worth about $4,000 were stolen.

Police investigation led to the identification of Pangelinan and Christopher Boki Evangelista, who along with a third suspect, allegedly conspired to sell the stolen cigarettes at stores. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Housing repair money to update homes now available

HILO, Hawaii—Are winter rains invading your home? Need a new roof, doors or windows? Electrical wiring got you frazzled? Plumbing got you clogged? If so, USDA Rural Development has the funds available to help for all this and more. Start the year off with up to a $20,000 Single Family Housing Repair Loan with a 1 percent fixed interest rate and maximum repayment period of 20 years.

"This program answers the call for the underserved need of access to affordable home repair improvements for people in rural communities," said Chris Kanazawa, USDA Rural Development State Director for Hawaii and the Western Pacific. "It provides an opportunity to address these vital home rehabilitations through the USDA Rural Development Home Repair Program."

These loans, used to finance essential home improvements, are available to very low-income single family homeowners who lack the personal resources to pay for needed repairs. The program, also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, provides loans to homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes in eligible rural communities.

This program is available throughout Hawaii, American Samoa and the Western Pacific region. Contact local representatives to apply or for more information.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way—strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities.

USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities. ***(USDA)***

CUC

From Page 2

increase in rates that economist.com showed us, if we adopted all of that, that would mean that the residents struggling now, will struggle even more," San Nicolas said

"I'm not comfortable with increasing rates to the point where residents are going to choose between feeding their children or keeping the lights on. That's absolutely inhumane," he added.

Asked how CUC could then have additional revenues that it needs without increasing the rates, San Nicolas said they are working with the Legislature.

"We are working very closely with the Legislature for some of the proposed legislation for that are already in the committee or you know in the processed or potentially be drafted," San Nicolas said.

"It's not a 100 percent solution but it's definitely a step in that direction," he added.

From management, acting executive director Gary Camacho said they have to consider both the community and the company.

"It's an opportune time but at the same token we need to ensure that the decisions made are accurate decisions and to the best interest of the community and the best interests of CUC," Camacho said.

PETE

From Page 1

on various matters related to social and economic development," the statement said.

Palacios was just appointed to the post last November, by the late governor Eloy S. Inos. He was a former member of the 17th House of Representatives and was a former director of the Office on Aging. He also has served in the military for near a quarter century as a member of the United States Army, both in active and reserve duty capacities.

"I am grateful to Mr. Palacios and Mr. Tenorio for their service to governor Eloy S. Inos' administration and to the people of the CNMI," Torres said in the statement yesterday.

Changes in Cabinet members were expected following the passing of Inos in December and the rise of Torres, then lieutenant governor, and then Senate president Hocog to the helms of government.

DROUGHT

From Page 1

the drought is going to be. We know how bad the El Nino has been and it is one of the three strongest in the last 100 years. Based on that, it's going to be a fairly serious drought," Guard said.

Currently, some part of Micronesia is under drought level 2 or D2, which means severe drought and that crop or pasture losses are likely, water shortages common, and water restrictions may be imposed.

NWS said this number will likely increase from D2 to a more severe drought across all of Micronesia.

Guard said the driest months would be around March and April and rains will not be sufficient until August.

"If you get rain, you might get one day of rain, that's not going to do much. If people have catchments they might get temporary source of water. But for the most part, the rain showers are going to be light, they're going to be scattered, they're going to be random, they're not going to hit the same place every day," Guard said.

Guard said at least a 10th of an inch rain is needed for the catchments, while a quarter of an inch is needed for water to get into the soil or into the aquifer.

"But if the soil is already dry, one of two things happen, either it takes all that water to saturate the soil, but if it's already dry and it's packed then when it rains hard, it doesn't sink in, then you get runoff," Guard said.

Runoffs could then cause water to go directly to the ocean which could bring with it dirt that will not be good for the reefs.

Because of insufficient rain and dry weather, several impacts are anticipated to be experienced.

First, aquifers will have less water and the soil will dry up.

"The aquifer here on Saipan is fairly shallow in the coastal areas where most of the wells are. As they get thinner and thinner, there is no rain to reinforce the lens, water is constantly running back to the ocean. Eventually the lens gets thinner and thinner," Guard said.

"Sea levels are low right now. If they're trying to pump from wells that are near the coastline, they have a much bigger chance of pulling in salt water," he added.

Guard said NWS is encouraging water conservation to be practiced.

There are also possibilities of grass fires as vegetation, and plants dry up.

This is one of the main vulnerabilities on Tinian.

"[Tinian has] a really good aquifer, they have a lot of water so the wells are good but the grasses are going to die and the livestock wouldn't have anything to eat," Guard said.

"In 1998, I think a thousand cattle died during the drought," he added.

Tinian was impacted by the severe drought that followed the strong El Nino event during the latter half of 1997 when the island received less than half of its average annual rainfall.

"Rota is in pretty good shape because they have a lot of wells but the water caves in Rota will dry up," Guard said.

Warm temperatures will also have an effect on bodies of water.

"Later on the spring, the trade winds are going to come back in stronger. That's going to cause the water to start piling up and then it's going to mix the warm water on the top down into the ocean and the ocean is going to expand," Guard said.

"So the sea level is going to go up and then you're going to be more susceptible to coastal erosion," he added.

Guard said that even if the islands get the same size of swells and waves from Japan, the sea levels will be a foot higher which could then do more damage to coasts.

After the drought, the well-awaited rainfalls could also pose problems to barren soil.

"Erosions are a problem because once the grass fires get rid of the grass and when the rain comes back, it comes back really hard and it starts eroding the bare soil," Guard said.

Guard said with regards to health, the public should also be concerned about stagnant water during the dry season where mosquitoes could multiply and spread diseases such as dengue fever.

"Mosquitoes will lay their eggs and when the rain comes back, those eggs will hatch," Guard said.

GOVT

From Page 1

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune* a working group has been formed to promulgate these rules, in light of a recent law to have tour vehicles register with the government. He said they aim to publish the rules sometime by mid-to-the-end of February this year, with an intent to carry out a "full media blitz"—like with their work on a previous alcohol and tobacco campaigns—to disseminate information to the public of "what's written in the law."

"It's nothing personal," Rabauliman said. "It's just the law."

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan calls these operators "rogue." He believes the issue comes down to protecting the CNMI's tourists from illegal or smaller operations that don't have the capability of carrying heavier or larger insurance policies."…Certain companies have very little liability insurance and cap out very quickly and families are left holding the bag," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Government agencies that are responsible for business licensing and providing these individuals the ability to operate should make sure there is sufficient liability insurance in the Commonwealth for tour operators, Sablan said. Secondly, the government needs to develop certification of tour guides so that guides "know how to operate, know the history of the Commonwealth, its flora and fauna," so they can tell "the right message consistently."

"It seems to me that there are no regulations that dictate what type of tour company can even start here," he said. "…It's all about protecting our No. 1 industry and making sure our tourists are being taken cared of both from a tourists standpoint and heaven forbid—on the possibility that someone gets hurt or injured—that there is some insurance that can cover that."

Closing the loopholes

On the word "illegal," Rabauliman said it's sometimes the matter of having regulations and laws in place with "some not informed, as they need to be." He said they are trying to close these "loopholes" to ensure all business activities conform and comply across the board.

"So that there will be no misinterpretation," he added.

Closing these loopholes could mean a clear definition of "what is a tour company or a tour operator is?" or "what is a taxi" or "what is grounds transportation" and things of that nature, Rabauliman explained. "We just need to have a clear definition so that way every regulator agency will be using the same definition."

For Sablan, it's also about "maintaining the follow up." "It's been known that companies take on some policies and [then] they cancel the policies—whether it be vehicle or liability—just to get a business license.

"With some of these insurance companies you can pay monthly, quarterly, semi-annually. So these guys get the policy and they cancel it or lower the threshold and nobody has a reporting aspect for that," he added.

On vehicle insurance, Sablan does not understand why there appears to be "no connection" between the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and insurance companies. "When somebody cancels a policy, that should be an automatic red flag to BMV and BMV should follow up with that tour operator—whether it be a tour operator or a local vehicle. That's a significant liability for the Commonwealth."

CONDO

From Page 1

With a site area of 14,632.97 square meters, Beacon Hill Condominium will have 68 guestroom units with swimming pool at the ground level. There will be seven units of three-storey villas with swimming pool, and eight units of two-storey villas with swimming pool.

Christopher F. Fryling, president of N15 Architecture Co. Inc., filed the application for Prime Pacific Properties.

Fryling told *Saipan Tribune* last night that Prime Pacific Properties is composed of a group of investors, mostly Americans. He disclosed that he is one of the investors.

"We're going after the upper level market in Garapan," said Fryling, explaining that they are targeting those in the middle—the executives, managers, consultants, and others.

A condotel or condo hotel is a condominium but is operated as a hotel.

Fryling said if all permits are obtained, they are planning to immediately start construction this year.

The Zoning Board, chaired by Diego C. Blanco, is going to hold a public hearing on Prime Pacific Properties Inc.'s request for conditional use permit at 5pm today, Thursday, at its conference room located at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

Lawmaker questions whereabouts of human remains

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) wants to shed light on the whereabouts of the reported 332 human remains and artifacts uncovered on the construction grounds of the Saipan casino in Garapan during archaeological work last year.

Sablan asked House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R- Saipan) to allow the appropriate House committee to seek an audience with the Historic Preservation Office on this matter.

"There has been no light shed on their whereabouts," said Sablan. "I feel our people deserve to know… We are not sure how long this is going take."

Do we want the remains "in a container or have them in a resting place?" he added.

Sablan said he been told that the remains where kept somewhere around Lower Base, and kept in a container, which he reminded should be air-conditioned and provided 24-hour security.

"Hopefully, we can expedite the final report and recovery," Sablan said. "Our people deserve to know" and our "ancestors deserve to rest."

For his part, House Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) noted the other issue of previous unfinished data recovery on the same site by a Japanese developer in the late '90s—where an osteologist took a reported 263 human remains for study off-island.

"They've been gone a long time," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that their "status" needs to be followed up on.

CLASS OF 2015 JON PEREZ

Members of the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter program's graduating class of 2015 listen as House Speaker Rafael Demapan reads a House Resolution honoring their achievement. The 12-member class graduated last Tuesday during a simple ceremony at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Next week is Catholics Schools Week

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog on Tuesday declared the week of Jan. 31 to Feb. 6 as "Catholic Schools Week" during a signing event at Mount Carmel School.

"We urged the students, parents, staff, faculty, alumni, and volunteers of Catholic schools to participate in observance of this week in appropriate ways that will help instill awareness and appreciation of the values that Catholic education cultivates in our children, which enhance the quality of life for all our people," Torres and Hocog said in their proclamation.

The proclamation acknowledges the schools, Sister Remedious Early Childhood Development Center and Mount Carmel School on Saipan, and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota, for providing intellectual, spiritual, and moral development to a diverse group of students in making sure they reach their "God-given potential."

Sister Remedios was first established as Our Lady of Mercy Kindergarten in 1951. MCS was established a year later in 1952. In 1985, a Catholic Education Office was established on Saipan. In 1989, the catholic school on Rota was established.

Hyatt prepares for Chinese New Year

Hyatt Regency Saipan prepares to welcome the Chinese New Year by bringing in the executive chef of their sister hotel in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province in time for the celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year on Feb. 8.

Chef Jacky Yu from the Park Hyatt Ningbo Resort and Spa will be cooking and promoting the traditional dishes of Zhejiang Province.

His selection will include crispy fried rice cake, pan-fried dumplings, sugar and rice wine-sauce marinated prawns, mussel and razor clams, seasoned fried king prawns, wok-fried crab, and Dong Qian Lake fish soup.

The Chinese Lunar New Year dinner buffet is only available for three nights, from Feb. 8 to 10, Monday to Wednesday from 6pm to 9pm at the Kili Café & Terrace. Buffet includes unlimited beer, wine, and iced tea.

The Public is also invited on Feb. 8, Monday, to watch the traditional lion dance performance by the Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI at 11:30am at the hotel lobby and at 6:30pm at Kili Café & Terrace. The Chinese believe the lion brings in good luck.

The Chinese Lunar New Year will welcome in the Year of the Fire Monkey, the ninth of the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac.

The Chinese Lunar New Year dinner buffet is priced at $50 per person and $35 for Club at the Hyatt members.

For more information, call 234-1234 ext. 26. ***(Jon Perez)***

Kagman Community Park project moves forward

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON EREZ

Sonya Dancoe presents to Rotary Club of Saipan members the concept, layout, and plans for the Kagman Community Park project last Tuesday during their meeting at Giovanni's at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The planned Kagman Community Park had taken a big step as invitation for bids came out Tuesday, informing interested contractors to begin preparing their proposals for the rehabilitation project.

Interested construction firms can start picking up project packages starting on Monday, Feb. 1, at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. from Monday to Friday during regular working hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm. A non-refundable $25 fee is required.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on Feb. 23, Tuesday, at 1pm at the NMHC conference room in their Garapan Central Office. The bid submission deadline is set on March 8, Tuesday, at 11am.

The project, which aims to develop and improve the facilities of the existing Kagman Community Center, is jointly funded by the NMHC through a Community Development Block Grant and the Rotary Club of Saipan.

The Rotary Club of Saipan applied for a CDBG and was approved by the NMHC. They would also use a portion of the funds they raised during the Las Vegas Night for the children's park.

"Five years ago we started fundraising for this project. [Rotary Saipan vice president] Brian Clayton has been very supportive of the project from the transition of the claim of property to planting of the trees. This project has taken a big step," said Rotary Saipan president Curtis Dancoe in their weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Kili Café of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The final design, layout, and artwork of the Kagman park project were submitted last week to NMHC. The Kagman Community Center is a property that's between the Kagman Elementary School and the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Rotary member Sonya Pangelinan Dancoe, who opened the SP Dancoe & Associates professional engineering firm, has also lent her expertise on the project. She showed to the members, during the meeting, some of the plans for the project and added that they also wanted to get the schools involved once the project is completed.

"So they could feel responsible in taking care of the property. As much as possible we want everyone to enjoy visiting the park and to avoid," said Sonya Dancoe, who is also the wife of Rotary president Curtis Dancoe.

Installing solar lights, turning the basketball half court to a full-size court, new bleachers, a community playground, and an exercise area are some of the plans for the Kagman Family Park.

Clayton added that once the basketball court is finished, they would invite league organizers to also hold their games at the new facility.

Aside from the Rotary and the people of Kagman taking care of the facility, maintenance would also fall on the Department of Public Lands and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Man in domestic violence gets 1-day prison term

Komgish Tannakan, a 36-year-old man accused of beating up his girlfriend and threatening to pour laundry soap in her mouth, entered a guilty plea yesterday and was sentenced to one day in prison.

Tannakan signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to the offenses of assault and battery and interfering with a domestic violence report.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho accepted Tannakan's guilty plea and the agreement based on defendant's lack of prior criminal conviction or arrest and that the victim wants contact with him and does not want him to go to jail.

Tannakan and the victim also informed the court that they are preparing to get married.

Camacho sentenced Tannakan to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except one day.

The defendant was given credit for one day. It means that he will no longer serve more prison time.

Tannakan was placed on one year of supervised probation and required to pay a $200 fine, $25 court costs, and $100 probation fee.

The defendant was ordered to complete counseling recommended by the Community Guidance Center or Office of the Adult Probation. He is prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages or controlled substances during the probationary period.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Tannakan slapped and kicked his girlfriend at their residence in San Antonio on Nov. 3, 2015.

When the girlfriend tried to call police, he grabbed the phone away from her, preventing her from calling for assistance. She refused medical assistance.

As part of the plea deal, assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda moved to dismiss the remaining charges of three counts of child neglect, one count of assault and battery, and one count of disturbing the peace. The judge granted the motion.

Attorney Joe Hill served as counsel for Tannakan.

Police said that officers responded to AJ Poker in Afetnas at 1:18am last Nov. 4 after the victim called for help. When the officers arrived, the victim was in the cashier's booth, crying.

Tannakan was standing at the booth's window.

The victim told police that earlier that night, Tannakan slapped her in the face and threatened to kill her. She said the defendant got a cup full of powdered laundry detergent, grabbed her by the mouth, and threatened to pour the soap in her mouth to kill her.

She alleged that Tannakan grabbed her by the hair, dragged her for about 15 feet, and kicked her against the wall.

The victim said Tannakan later brought her and their three minor children to AJ Poker so he could play poker, leaving the children in the car.

At AJ Poker, the victim later went to the cashier's booth, where she tried to call police assistance, but Tannakan came and pulled the phone away from her.

A security guard came and told the victim to go inside the booth. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_ctr@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than February 8, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, in Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer
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Angello sues SSA, acting commissioner

John "Jack" A. Angello has filed lawsuit in federal court against the Social Security Administration and its acting commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin for allegedly not properly calculating his SSA retirement insurance benefits, among other things.

Angello is suing SSA and Colvin for allegedly violating the law by not recording his SS taxed earnings and delaying an answer or making a remedy, and by not properly and accurately calculating his SSA retirement insurance benefits and delaying an answer to his complaint.

Angello is also suing the defendants for allegedly violating the Social Security Act, Older Americans Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the U.S. Constitution by overcharging him for his medicare, delaying his February-August 2015 SSA retirement insurance benefits and not responding to his inquiries, and by selfishly calculating his 2016 cost of living adjustment by a self-serving consumer price index and denying him a COLA.

Angello asked the court to order SSA to record and credit his SS taxed earnings for years 2007-2009, or if not compelled to record 2007-2009 taxed earnings.

He requested the court to order the SSA to return taxes and fees ($3,528.02) to him since SS taxes were not officially collected from CNMI government employees during 2007-2009.

He asked the court to order SSA to recalculate his retirement insurance benefits according to the information in his SSA "My Account."

Angello moved the court to declare the SSA's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) administered to his retirement insurance benefits is as unconstitutional and should be reevaluated and re-calculated as to not cause undue harm to him.

He asked the court to order SSA to refund the Medicare payment of one month ($104.90) that has been withheld from him.

He requested the court to order SSA to pay him the retroactive February-August 2015 lump sum SS payment of $4,907 that is being improperly withheld from him.

He asked the court to declare SSA's action of denying him his 2016 COLA is not justifiable.

Angello said he filed for SS retirement insurance benefits at the age of 62 on Feb. 27, 2009, in the State of California while caring for his dying parents.

An SS notice of award was issued on March 20, 2009.

On March 24, 2009, he filed a request for reconsideration after his determined benefits were greatly reduced due to the SS's Windfall Elimination Provision.

SSA denied his request for reconsideration to eliminate the WEP.

On Dec. 2, 2010, the SSA's administrative law judge denied Angello's request to eliminate the WEP.

Angello filed a request for review of hearing decision/order with the SSA's Appeals Council. The council denied his request. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

First application in for junket ops

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has received its first application for junket operations for the Saipan casino, according to executive director Edward C Deleon Guerrero.

Guerrero said the application came "from a local company." "We anticipate to receive more."

Two more separate applicants have expressed interest but have not paid the necessary fees yet.

The commission is expecting to receive applications from mainland China and working to translate their applications to Chinese, according to Guerrero.

These junket operators are expected to bring high rollers to gamble at the Saipan casino.

Applications for junket license have been finalized and released to Best Sunshine International, Ltd., the owners of the Saipan casino, and other parties, sometime last December.

In an earlier interview, Guerrero said unlike in Macau gaming—where junket operators "take over" casino VIP rooms—junket operators on island would be barred from doing that. "The junket operator cannot take over a VIP room," he said, "It would have to be Best Sunshine and Best Sunshine's approved and licensed dealers and pit boss that are operating the casino."

"We do not allow any outside entity to run the casino, or the VIP room, other than the licensee," added Guerrero. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

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20 first responders graduate in ASIST

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty participants graduated from the applied suicide intervention skills training, or ASIST, headed by the Community Guidance Center.

A two-day training was opened to first responders from the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services and the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

"Suicide is a growing concern here in the CNMI," CGC prevention specialist Joanna Abraham said.

From May 2014 to May 2015, eight cases of suicide were reported in the Commonwealth.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Twenty first responders from the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services and the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting participated and graduated from the applied suicide intervention skills training headed by the Community Guidance Center.

"There could be more than that. Suicide is still a very sensitive topic with the different cultures that we have," Abraham said.

"A lot of them aren't really recorded as suicide," prevention services manager Tiara Evangelista added.

Abraham said CGC wants to make sure that the first responders in the community are trained on what to do in these situations. They will also continue opening up the training on other partner agencies and members of the public that wants to be involved.

She added that those who have suicidal thoughts or tendencies can be helped.

"A lot of times, the victims feel like there is no one to reach out to," Abraham said, "What we're trying to teach the different groups that we've reached out so far is that it is something that needs to be addressed and it's a huge concern and it's something that we can be able to help stop in our community or at least prevent."

As part of the training, the participants learn how to do interventions on people who are having these thoughts. Aside from lectures, the participants undergo scenarios and learn how to approach and talk to victims.

"These guys, they know their roles now. And if they can notice the sign and all that, they can step in and assist. If not, they can also point them in the right direction," Abraham said.

"ASIST is, you can apply it professionally or on your own. You can apply it to your friends or family," prevention services social marketing officer Maria Kileleman said.

Interested individuals who want to be part of the training can email cgcprevention@gmail.com.

14 to vie for Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy tiara

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fourteen teenagers will be vying for this year's Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy crown with the coronation set on Feb. 20 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Pageant director Ernie Molina said they decided to limit the number to 14 due to time constraints and also it is the date of Valentine's Day, with February also being Love Month.

"There were a lot more who wanted to join but we limited the number of the official candidates to 14 because it's hard to organize a pageant with a huge number [of contestants]. We are also tight on schedule, time is short," added Molina, who is also the show's choreographer.

Molina said that the candidates are also undergoing personality development training so they could have the confidence when they face the audience come pageant night.

"We had our orientation last week and I'm impressed since all the candidates were energetic and excited. The training that they've been doing is also for their own good and we're grooming them so they could be confident once they are on stage," said Molina.

"The moment they stepped on the stage for the opening number the panel of judges will be judging them based on how they project themselves. If they show exuberance, grace, and poise. That would be part of the judging process."

Molina said that they had already started with the rehearsals, every Tuesdays and Thursdays, and he was surprised to learn that all the candidates have always been punctual and that's why the flow of the show is almost done.

"I'm strict when it comes to time. I see to it that I'm always early in meetings since I strictly follow a schedule. They are all punctual and come to the rehearsals ahead of me, I'm really impressed with their attitude," said Molina.

"We're almost done with our rehearsals. We've been practicing how they stand, walk, project and talk. Even up to the question and answer portion, we are training them, so they could have the confidence once they face the judges."

He added that these training could help the 14 candidates if ever they decided to join the Miss Teen CNMI or the Miss Marianas beauty pageants. "They already have an advantage since they already experienced how a beauty pageant goes."

The criteria for judging will be based on personality, talent, formal wear, and question and answer portion. The candidates ill be judged right from the opening number like the way they dance and move on stage.

Cash prizes will be given away with the second runner-up winning $300, the first runner-up getting $500, while the Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy will go home with $800. Special awards will also have cash prizes namely, Miss Congeniality, Miss Photogenic, Spirit Award, Best in Talent and Evening Gown or Formal Wear, Star of the Night, and Miss Charity.

Molina explained that the Spirit awardee must show enthusiasm and energy, the Star of the Night is the one who excelled and stood out in the opening number, and the Miss Charity is the candidate who had helped the organizers in raising funds.

Angela Barbo, Mary Angela Cabrera, Clarice Mhae T. Canarejo, Catherine Kate Castro, Janelle S. Lavetoria, Queen Anne Lopez, Mazie Anne A. Manalang, Adonna Matutino, Rhine Jaydel Russell, Mary Lenor Sablan, Chloe Salvosa, Michaella Serrano, Mikamaika Serrano, and Erica Tubera are the 14 candidates.

DEQ red-flags 2 sites on Saipan

The Division of Environmental Quality has given the Sea Plane Ramp and Garapan Fishing Dock red flags and advised the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The division said samples taken from both locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (entrococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's 38 recreational beaches and storm drainages every Tuesday.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secD=52. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications for the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, please send an email to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(PR)***

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 28, 2000

New financial aid entices students to return to NMI after graduation

The proposed financial aid program for local college students will not only save government resources several millions of dollars, it is also focused at eventually reducing the commonwealth's heavy dependence on foreign labor. Called the Guaranteed Student Loan Act of 1999, the proposed legislation encourages grantees to return to the Northern Marianas after completion of their course to pump up local labor participation in the private sector. At present, there are more than 20,000 Filipino workers, close to 17,000 Chinese and some 1,300 Koreans in the CNMI. Repayment of the loan will not exceed 15 years from the expected date of completion of the actual completion of the course of studies, if shorter than the expected date, for which the loan was approved. The interest charged for the loan will not exceed 7.5 percent per annum.

Proper used oil disposal deq's campaign target hotels, construction firms

The Division of Environmental Quality is targeting hotels, garment factories and construction firms, which are mostly using generators in their operation, in its information drive this year on proper disposal of used oil. As a regulatory agency, DEQ's concern is focused on ensuring sure that the various businesses are following the proper disposal of used oil since the CNMI lacks the recycling facility. When storing used oil, containers and tanks must be in good condition and show no signs of severe rusting, apparent structural defects, deterioration or visible leaks.

January 28, 2005

House leaders still want cordial relations with minority

The House leadership hopes that last Thursday's boycott by the minority bloc would in no way be a signal of an end to the two camp's relatively harmonious relationship. House leadership spokesman Charles P. Reyes Jr., said he is aware that 2005 is an election year but he said, "We still want to maintain a cordial and friendly and civilized interaction and relationship." No members of the opposition in the House of Representatives showed up in Thursday's scheduled regular session. In particular, the minority strongly objected to the passage of initiatives amending Article 11 and 12 of the CNMI Constitution as embodied in the Senate Legislative Initiative 14-3 and House Legislative Initiative 14-10.

Saipan gets new retroreflective road signs

In case you are wondering why almost all road signs on Saipan have turned from bright orange to fluorescent yellow, it's all part of the 120-day road signs makeover being implemented by the Department of Public Works. The road signs are now called retroreflective road signs, according to DPW's Traffic, Highway, Maintenance and Beautification special project coordinator Frank C. Sablan. He hopes, though, that all road signs will be replaced by the new retroreflective signs next month. DPW has included a continual maintenance program for the new retroreflective road signs to ensure timely replacements in due time.

January 28, 2006

NMC library goes increasingly hi-tech

The Northern Marianas College Library is now one of the most "high-tech" libraries in the Pacific, according to the facility's director Laura Kaspari Hohmann.

The new system, said Hohmann, allows students to search the catalog from any computer on island that has an Internet connection. The web address for this system is http://library.nmcnet.edu. With the web address, students can manage their account by renewing books online, creating lists, and placing holds on books that are currently checked out. In addition to the high-tech system, the new and improved library now boasts of a robust research database system that can store more than 200 magazines and journals that NMC currently subscribes to. For book borrowing privileges, community membership can be purchased for an annual fee of $10 per individual, or $20 per family.

Inhalable insulin OK'd

Here's a piece of good news for the CNMI's sizeable diabetic population.

The first inhalable version of insulin won federal approval Friday, giving millions of adult diabetics an alternative to some of the injections they now endure. The Food and Drug Administration said the Pfizer Inc. insulin, to be marketed as "Exubera," is the first new way of delivering insulin since the discovery of the hormone in the 1920s. Pfizer jointly developed the drug and dispenser with Sanofi-Aventis and Nektar Therapeutics. It should be available to patients by midyear, Pfizer said. Use of rapid-acting inhaled insulin will not replace the need to inject the hormone occasionally, according to the FDA. And diabetics will have to continue pricking their fingers to test blood sugar levels.

5 graduate from Family Literacy Program

» CNMI Motheread/Fatheread prepares slew of activities

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program's five Adult Course participants and 12 Story Exploring Class participants pose with parent trainer Bryan Manabat and Story Exploring instructor Margarita Sugaste at the conclusion of the programs last Monday at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program celebrated another beautiful completion ceremony at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last Monday, Jan. 25.

Five parents participated in the Adult Course facilitated by parent trainer Bryan Manabat. The parents who completed the class were as follows: Vivian Soh, Su Jung Kim, So Yang Kim, Sangwon Lim, and Heeseung Oh.

A total of 12 children participated in the children's Story Exploring Class facilitated by Story Exploring instructor Margarita Sugaste.

The children who participated in this fun-filled class were as follows: Jii Lee, Dustin Hyun, Davina Chae, Tae Young Lee, Kyun Ha Ju, Jessica Yao Mu, Justin Yao Mu, Serim Woo, Sena Woo, Keziah P. Manabat, Alejandra P. Manabat, and Ronald P. Manabat.

Since Nov. 30, 2015, a series of eight Motheread/Fatheread classes were conducted in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Children of Our Homeland Center. Highlights of this holiday season class include: Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.'s friendship bracelet and distribution of a personalized bookmark highlighting its JKPL schedule and a distribution of the newly designed CNMI Motheread/Fatheread incentive giveaways.

Motheread/Fatheread is a nationally acclaimed community based program administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. Parents and children learn to use the power of children's literature to improve their own reading skills, to explore challenging family issues, and to foster empowerment in their daily lives.

The Motheread/Fatheread Program provides opportunities for all parents—regardless of their educational background or previous experience to be a reading role model for children by developing their children's reading, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

The Motheread/Fatheread Program targets families with parents, but is open to any adult—or grandparent, godparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, et—who has a passion for literacy and who is willing to share a first-rate literacy experience with children in their family or community.

While parents attend the Adult Course, their children (Ages 3-11) are invited to participate in a Story Exploring Class. All courses are taught in English. All Motheread/Fatheread books are written in English, with some translations in Chamorro, Carolinian, and Spanish. In addition to its curricula, Motheread/Fatheread offers a financial literacy class in partnership with the Bank of Hawaii, as well as, the Eagle Books series—upon availability—which is a series of four books that is used to promote literacy and a healthy lifestyle geared toward diabetes prevention. Venues are held in local libraries, public and private schools, Head Start centers, youth/community centers, juvenile detention/adult correctional facilities, homes, apartments, and private business throughout the CNMI.

With that being said, the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program cordially invites you to participate in their free adult course and Children's Story Exploring Class! This spring, CNMI Motheread/Fatheread will be jumpstarting into the Head Start Centers. On Feb. 9, 2016, at 5:30pm, classes will be held at the San Antonio Head Start Center and the Chalan Kanoa Head Start Center. On Feb. 10, 2016, 5:30pm classes will be held at Oleai Head Start Center, Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start Center (JMR-Garapan), while Tanapag Head Start Center will be at 5pm. And finally on Feb. 11, 2016 at 5:30pm classes will be held at Kagman Head Start Center and Dan Dan Head Start Center.

If you cannot wait to start classes in February, then head on down to Kagman, because an ongoing class at the Kagman Elementary School is currently being held every Wednesday at 5pm in the school's library.

Let's get this literacy party started and sign up today, CNMI! Visit us on facebook at CNMI Motheread/Fatheread or call our office conveniently located in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at 235-7319. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PO Box 502149; Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian, on Friday, January 29, 2016,* at *6:00 p.m.* on the application of *Alter City Group Incorporated*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *golf and casino resort*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further information.*** For fur ther information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC THAT
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THOMAS E. CLIFFORD
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 506514 SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Naftan Bomb Storage and Naftan Ordnance Disposal Munitions Response Sites Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to attend a public meeting during which elements of the Naftan Bomb Storage and Naftan Ordnance Disposal remedial investigation draft final work plan and technical approach will be presented. The remedial investigation is being performed in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your input on work plan components so the plan can be finalized.

Meeting Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016
Meeting Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Center

For more information regarding the planned remedial investigation and feasibility study, please contact Helene Takemoto, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District Project Manager at:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 230
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Telephone: 808.835.4088
Fax: 808.835.4129
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Repairs are overdue at the national parks

When household budgets are tight, people tend to put off expensive maintenance projects. So a leaky roof gets patched instead of replaced, or paint is left to peel for a season or two or three longer than a homeowner (not to mention the neighbors) would like.

Government agencies do the same thing. And now, after years of putting off less-crucial repairs because of insufficient funding, the National Park Service has an $11.5 billion backlog of deferred maintenance projects — about four times the department's annual operating budget (and part of a $159 billion overall federal backlog). About half of the parks backlog involves roads and bridges, and the rest covers wastewater treatment plants, buildings, water systems, campgrounds and other facilities.

That's an astounding amount of work, and while it's not as popular with park users as habitat restoration, it's crucial for ensuring public safety and the quality of the parks themselves. Fortunately, Congress's recent budget nearly doubles the money — to $116.3 million — for projects deemed by the Park Service to be critical for the well-being of visitors and workers, or for environmental restoration. The new five-year highway transportation bill also includes $1.4 billion for roads and bridges in national parks. While the increased spending is good news for the parks and those who visit them, it's far less than what's required to address the need.

Later this year, the National Park Service will celebrate its centennial, which marks more of a bureaucratic benchmark than a true birthday, since Yosemite was designated the world's first national park in 1872. By early 1916, the nation had 14 national parks, 21 national monuments and two protected "reservations" at Hot Springs, Ark., as well as the Casa Grande ruins in Arizona. But the parks had no central administration, which led to inconsistent policies; in August of that year, the National Park Service was founded.

Hoping to capitalize on the centennial spotlight, the Obama administration has asked Congress to allocate $900 million more over three years to reduce the parks' deferred maintenance backlog, and another $300 million over three years for restoration projects, making energy and water use more efficient and improving outdoor recreation facilities in parks as well as on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and other agencies. Neither of those proposals have gained traction with Republicans because they don't include cuts to offset the new spending.

The Park Service also wants Congress to create a new National Park Centennial Challenge Fund which would match private donations for park projects with federal money, including but not limited to deferred maintenance. The concept of a public-private partnership has bipartisan support but, not surprisingly, there's a gulf as wide as the Grand Canyon on funding. The administration proposes as much as $100 million over each of three years in matching funds. A Republican counter-proposal would bump the price of a

See REPAIRS on Next Page

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA
"WHICH HILLARY ARE YOU VOTING FOR? THE ONE WHO ISN'T RUNNING FOR OBAMA'S 'THIRD TERM' OR THE ONE WHO EMBRACES HIS LEGACY?"

A fish story

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

I floated out to the breach at Sugar Dock toward Tinian once but managed to get to the reef before the sun went down. I wrote of it, then had a similar experience at the reef where the stationary ships come close near Quarter Master. I wrote about it, too, which caused my editor to comment that I must harbor a death wish.

My mother who turns 96 this September, bidding her time in a Hawaii hospice, predicted when I was 4 (after I "drowned" again) that I will die wading in waters. Perhaps she was prescient so I cooled it treading too close to the reef.

Not this late January. Tide was in at CK and I still could not resist looking for shells by the reef. I tiptoed on the rocks but the strong current was unkind to my leg cramps, then my goggles snapped. I bobbed on the tide semi-blind. I survived to tell about it but this time, I am resolved not to get into the water by my lonesome. This sour story had me drink lots of salty waters!

I grew up on the shores of Northern Luzon and milkfish (bangus) was raised in the fishponds by the marshy wetlands in the delta close to Aparri, Cagayan. Milkfish came as a common fare in my dining table so when I saw some at the store, I picked up small frozen ones to feast on sour soup, sinigang, and cap the day.

The Korean markings gave me my first clue that they weren't from my region except knowing that the grapefruit (pomelo) grown in Davao were packed on site by Koreans and marketed in northeast China, I would not have been surprised if they packaged the bangus as well.

It was Korean-packed all right but the fish originated in Kaohsiung. I aimed to make the sour soup (from the Malay singgang) that is so dear to Philippine taste buds. I did not pay too close attention to my mother in the kitchen on the "how to," so I walked to my neighbor to inquire on how. A piping hot soup beckoned.

I knew enough about *sampaloc* (sour tamarind that sometimes turn sweet when ripe) and the tiny relative to lemon and lime, the calamansi, but they were not available. Someone harvested the kamias in my yard so that was out; green mango was not in season, and the guavas bore no fruit. The kiwi fruit (Chinese gooseberry) was too expensive. I did not relish using bullion cubes. I was determined to use only natural ingredients.

Happily, the Korean-owned, Chinese-run Filipino-staffed store I frequent packaged fixings, okra-ladies fingers, white radish-labanos-daikon, water spinach-kangkong, yard long green beans-sitaw, tomatoes, and eggplant-talong, sans the garlic and onions. An acidic fruit was what I was lacking. At Tun Joaquin Doi Rd. past the marshy area by the lake to the P.O. was a carmay (another gooseberry) tree downed by Soudelor. I snuck my vehicle close to the yard fence to help myself to the fruit but the shrub tree was not in fruiting season.

Basi (from sugar cane) would have been fine, even lambanog or tuba (from coconut), now gathered in Micronesia, but I was not that lucky. So I was left with good old white vinegar, which was the only thing I could find in the store lacking the dark sugar cane "juice" from Ilokandia.

What I was clear about was the milkfish. The bangus was the last one to go into the pot after the veggies boiled to semi-tender, but blimey me, I forgot the fish sauce (bagoong), or the salted small shrimp sauce to give it a savory flavor. So I feasted on sour sinigang, telling myself that I was "too sweet" anyway, and I needed souring. I slurped the hot soup and ate the bangus from head to tailfin with glee.

My neighbor who instructed me how to cook the sinigang revealed that her children do not get served fish because they never learned how debone the fish. Mothers tend to protect their kids. It is a pity, in this bony case. Unless crispy fried, the calcium-rich bones and scales provide a challenge to the scrupulous gourmand for fine bones abound and the bigger ones have to be set aside. Prepared crunchy, they are chewable.

It was the acidic taste of the soup-stew that I was after, the sour flavor is at home to the Indo-Malay tongue, common in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and tribes in South China. I did not encounter a similar dish in China among the 9 to 1 dominant Han.

China does have a heavenly sweet-and-sour fish dish, or meat (preferably pork and/or lamb). The fish or meat is sliced into thin pieces, fried in a deep wok where it turns crunchy; the sweet and sour is made from the dip sauce that turns a meal into a feast for gourmet. The royals consumed the viand under the mandate of heaven, so being portly porky was a sign of wellbeing among them rather than just being cholesterol obese.

The sinigang is the common man's (tao) fare in my neck of the woods. I boiled the lot with the garlic and union going first a few minutes before the veggies, giving the white radish and the eggplant a head start, poured in the milkfish and simmered it for five minutes, and served it piping hot. OK, Pinas. You may wipe that drool (laway) off your face.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Man-ñahlalañg

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Ta meskla konbetsasion-ta na biahe entre sustansiau yan man-ñahlalañg. Bes enkuando mauleg tana` guaha tinilaika gi asuntu pot para ta sustene klaru hinasso-ta. I sigiente:

Gi todu finapos-ta deste antigu na tiempu todu modun tinilaika fumatoigue inai-ta. Guaha siha man-mapañot ni mañaina-ta sin mañgañgas pot satbasion i manatatte. Dañkulu na sakrifisiu.

Maseha ñañgon yan mañgahat gi kinalamten niha, fitme yan intaktu makilili` i kuttura-ta gi halom ayu siha na mattiru. I puntu: i kuttura-ta i solu sahyan ni sumaga ma`ug giya hita kulan asut tasi ni tatnai matulaika kulotña deste hiniyuñg i tanu`.

Guaha siha tinilaika gi man-ma`gasta kontodu haligen relihion yan nasion ni mumanda ha`anita. Sin inbatgu i kutturan natibu intaktu. Uchan, lamlam, pagyu, linau yan disetton kinalamten pot maipe. Lau fitme gaige kuttura-ta kumu patañg yan konsuelon natibu.

Hafa i puntu? I kinalamten todu mau`udai pot tautau-ta, tano`ta, yan futtuna-ta. Sentru este na asuntu gi maseha haf` ta petsige kumu natibu. Mauleg kustumbre-ta na tautague gi mayotmente na kinalamten-ta. Sumen fitme magahet sensian kilisyanu piot gi bandan ayudu gi man-namase`. Estague` `nai lologlug gineftau tautau isla!

I finapos-hu ha sediyu` umebalua haf` sustansian edukasionhu yan kau todu para bai` aksepta. Manu guihe na patte destrosiu yan kau siña hu limienda antes de u atrasau? I asuntu petsonat ya gaige ennau na disision gi kada unu.

Todu nasion ni kumetulaika kuttura-ta ni unu felis. Taimanu un` tulaika naturat na patte gi patgon natibu tat kumu liñguahiña? Anog na sumen ma`ug modun linala`ta gi halom todu mattiru.

Para mona mauleg tana` guaha siha dinaña` natibu pot para ta diskute dibuenamente futtuna-ta. Gi este na dinaña` `nai mas siempre tali`e hafa asunto-ta yan haf` su`anu na satbasion. Muñga na i uttimu ora `nai para tafan a`adagau sentimentu ni tai sustansia.

Mit grasias para i man-guelota ni sumuñgun ñañgon na usun liñguahi-ta yan chineneg haf` sustansian kuttura yan tradision-ta. Este na sakrifisiu muna` esta pa`gu likidu i natibu guine siha na man-gatbon perlas.

Kañadan Linala`ta

Gi kada ta hagu` mona pasu-ta, ta suhaye i mattirun tiempu, makat na asuntu, sinetsot, pininite, yan otru siha chinatsaga. Gi kada lokue` lotgun hit ta konsidera haf` masusede. Cha`mu hinahalañg sa` i finapos-mu kumonfitma na ginen kañadan lina`la` i finapos tautau.

Siña ha` ti modun palasyu gima`ta lau fanna`e mit grasias na guaha fanliheñg familia. `An mampos bula na`yan gi labadot, fanna`e lokue` agradesimientu sa` guaha mantension familia. Pa`gu `an ti man-osge hau fanna`e mit grasias na man-yo`ase` mañaina-mu. Gi todu, i kañada `nai dumañkulu hau lugat `nai dodoku` problema-ta siha.

Lokue`, gi halom todu mattiru tat mas fitme na gini`ot kanai ke sinistenen familia gi todu birada. I kontribusion familia-ta muma` guma` i hinatsan tata na buttu. Huñgan guaha `nai ta chanda lau repara haye gaige gi uttimu besis—i familia. Feddos ennau na kañada sin ditension sa` siempre un` soda` dididi` sensian katma gi ha`ani-mu.

Masoda` un` chetnot ginen i ñamu mafanana`an Zika. Era `an inaka` i mapotget na palao`an pues siempre `an mañagu dikiki` iluña i neni. Ilegña amiguhu Magoo na chetnot leyisleche i humuyuñg sa` ginen iya Marianas ayu na pesti.

Maulegña u fan man-espiha otru chetnot ni munana` dañkulu ulu sa` ta nesessita guine gi tano`ta. Dios mihu Iku!

Hu soda` un` tiahu ume`e-amsun gi kanton unai iya Tanapag. Estaba i asaguaña na para u amara i gayu para una` apatek. Patte gi makriansan gayun gayera.

Gi kusiñaña huli`e ha amasa i harina dispues ha pega gi hilu` komat. Mamada` titiyas. Masuette ta`lu si Iku paire na mirienda. Mauleg in` bisisita mañainan miyu!

Hu fagcha`e lokue` un` tiuhu hasosoñge pilun patas guaka. Tatnai hu chage katdun patas. Gi primet biahe umuha`yu`. Dispues mofonayu` lumiof umepidasu gi fondun satten ke kusuneru! A`saina!

`Nai matai flores tinanomña dagu, hu faisen i tiuhu para u hahassuyu` `an mañgusecha. Ilegña na para una` famunu` ta`lu un biahe. Magahet na gi sigiente sakan man-dañkulun dagu hinale`ña i amku`.

Man-espiga tinanomña mai`es i biha gi hiyuñg kusinan i lanchu. Mangañ `nos kuantos para usun kusina. Mamatinas atmayas ya hana` yaneyu`. Paire.

Estaba i asaguahu sige mañotse matiteg kasunes gi lansadera. Ti hu estotba pot no u tagu`yu` muna`gasgas gi hiyuñg guma`.

Mafaisen un` malañgu para u kanta sunidon Christmas. Ti manman: "Oh what fun i Lexus ride…" Era dos Lexus mafahan para usun gobietnu yan segundu gobietnu guihe na tiempu. Manmafaisen ham haye mamana`gue. Todu man-chupun!

Malag un` resturan giya Honolulu dos amiguhu ginen Ponape. Ma-ayeg hot dog para amotsan talo`ane. `Nai mattu inedan niha ilegña i unu, "Hey, ti este na patte gi galagu in` kakanu`". Ai na grasia!

Silensiu ginen i chagu` sige guatu un` F-15 na fighter bomber. Tumagpapa` ya hilu` peskadot `nai malofan. Fotten sonic boom pumalo`pu i los prohimus na esta man-pinarada gi taduñg tasi. `Nai manalag hilu` esta gaige i jetfighter gi hilu` Tinian. Diberas!

`Nai matai todu i turupelan ruplanu, umesalau un` biha, "Kumaire, man-gatdun hit guine hulu` tula noche". Dios mihu!

Ileg niha na i talen modulug gi halom tasi ti kalalamten. Hu togcha` ni fisga. Ensegidas ha chaflulon ya ha dopbla fisgag-hu. Diberas `nai man-galope`yu` kanaha` hu upus Saipan. Imbelikeru!

`Nai para umumu dos bulacheru ume`esalau i unu "matene-yu` sa` hu punu` `ste". Gigon umasufa` guiya mañukot papa` kontra i fache`. Sige ha` umesalau, "un` li`e na kana` hu punu`?" Dios tiampare!

Humalom si Pedron Malas gi konfisinariu. Gigon lini`e as pale benendise. Mientras ha pasalilista siha isauña sige si pale` ha yeñgyoñg iluña. Dispues nina`e penitensiaña. `Nai humuyuñg si pale hali`e si Duñg i Walkman. Ilegña, "Esta mauleg sa` ni unu gi isau-hu ha huñgog". Inestotba sa` tiha tuñgu` kau ma-asi`igue` ni isauña.

`Nai ha adopta un` patgon lahe ha komprende i tata na ti entinadu kinine`ña ya debi u trata mas mauleg ke prefektu patgoña. Dañkulu na inadahe gi patgon.

REPAIRS

From Page 10

lifetime senior pass from $10 to $80, the same price as a regular annual parks pass, with the new revenue going to the matching fund. Republicans also want to raise money for a new National Park Endowment with a 5 percent lodging fee on park guests. They estimate both fees would bring in as much as $37 million a year, which they argue should be the limit of the government's contribution.

That's quite a divide. But to leave these maintenance issues unresolved just sets the stage for more expensive fixes down the road. The backlog includes more than $500 million at Yosemite alone, some $100 million of which is considered critical (California's national parks account for a total of $1.7 billion in deferred maintenance). While nonprofit conservancy groups have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on restoration, preservation, wildlife management and similar projects in national parks, they generally don't address infrastructure issues.

We hope we aren't misplacing our trust in the ability of Republicans and Democrats to compromise on this issue. Even in Washington, the city of eternal discord, there ought to be room for shared vision, and shared commitment, for a national park system that author Wallace Stegner once described as "the best idea we ever had."

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Republicans see gain in anti-immigration stance

By ALBERT R. HUNT
Bloomberg View

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist

Three years ago, high-level Republicans declared that after losing the popular vote in five of the past six elections, the party needed to appeal more to Hispanics to win the presidency. Immigration was a threshold issue.

Hispanics are the fastest-growing slice of the electorate. The 2012 Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, took an anti- immigration stance and only got 27 percent of that vote. It hadn't always been so. George W. Bush won almost 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004, and 20 years earlier, by some estimates, Ronald Reagan did even better.

Today, however, this notion has been turned upside down. Donald Trump has soared to the top of the Republican presidential field with an immigration-bashing pitch. The billionaire businessman has set the agenda for other aspirants: Ted Cruz has hardened his anti-reform position, Marco Rubio and Chris Christie have reversed course to adopt tougher-on- immigration stances and John Kasich has fudged.

More Republican politicians, along with some conservative commentators and strategists, now say Trump's hard line is good politics because it taps into deep cultural, economic and security fears.

There is plenty of demagoguery and racism to this appeal. Yet it is also being made by more thoughtful conservatives such as Reihan Salam, a top editor at the anti-Trump National Review. My Bloomberg View colleague, Ramesh Ponnuru, wrote recently that immigration, much like abortion decades ago, is becoming a defining test for Republicans with national aspirations.

Some of these advocates want to limit immigration to high-skilled workers, who are in demand, and keep out the less skilled, who they believe become a drag on society. (Most Democrats and Hispanics say that approach is a nonstarter.)

These Republicans claim that public opinion is moving their way, driven by economic frustration and new threats of terrorism. They note that Hispanics account for more than 5 percent of eligible voters in only three of the 10 national swing states: Colorado, Nevada and Florida. Whatever losses the party sustains among Hispanics — and Asian-Americans also turned off by anti-immigration rhetoric — will be more than offset, they believe, by energizing of alienated white voters.

Yet the white vote as a percentage of the total has been in steady decline, from 86 percent in 1984 to 72 percent in 2012. Romney won 59 percent of the white vote and still lost the election by four points. That means the Republican challenge will be to increase the overall percentage of the white vote, countering demographic trends, as well as their share of it.

This is a "risky strategy," says Ruy Teixeira, who studies demographic voting patterns at the liberal Center for American Progress. He noted that most of the anticipated increases in eligible nonwhite voters wouldn't be produced by immigration but by the greater proportion of younger voters in these groups.

Developments in several swing states underscore his point. In Colorado, Hispanics will be about 16 percent of eligible voters this year, twice as large a segment as two decades ago; by 2030, that will rise to 23 percent.

In Virginia, where in 1980 there weren't enough Hispanic or Asian-American voters to even measure, the state's electorate this year will be about 5 percent Hispanic and almost 7 percent Asian. Fast-forward to 2030 and those two groups will make up about 18 percent of the Virginia electorate, while black voters will account for about 20 percent.

Or consider the experience of California. From 1952 to 1988, Republicans carried the state in nine of 10 presidential elections, held the governorship in the majority of those years and were competitive in congressional contests. In 1994, Republican Gov. Peter Wilson won re-election by embracing crackdowns on benefits for immigrants. Republicans have paid a price ever since: The party's presidential candidate has been defeated in the state in every election and Republicans currently hold only 14 of California's 53 seats in the House of Representatives.

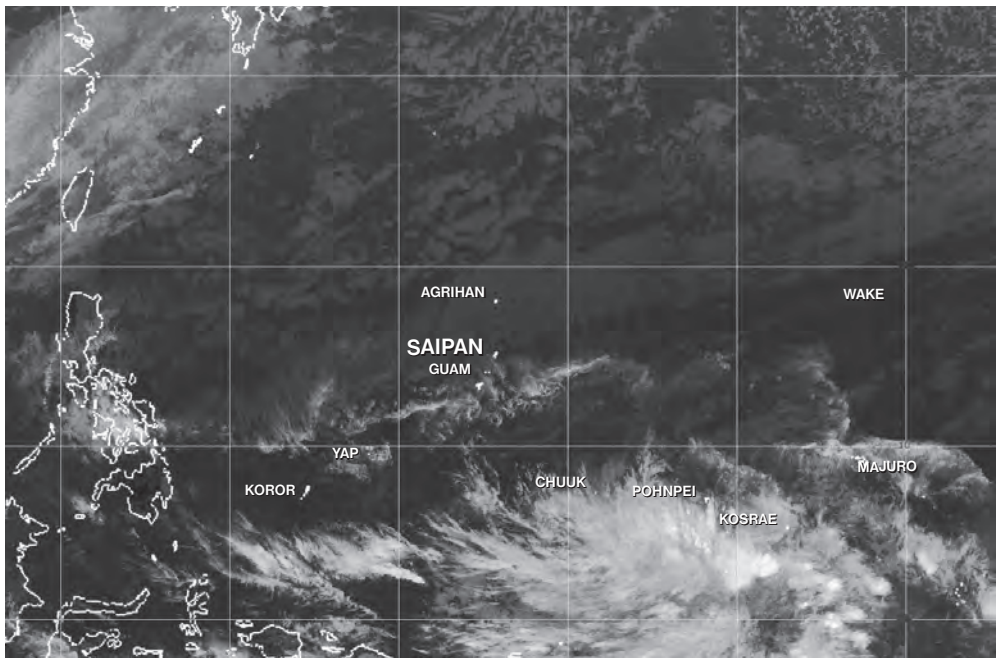
One former Republican presidential candidate fears this scenario could play out on the national level. Immigration is "killing our party," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, who dropped out of the race for the party's nomination last month. "Donald Trump today has an 81 percent disapproval rating with Hispanics. The Democrats will destroy this guy."

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼73°	▲85° ▼73°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:33 PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area near 24N180 and passes north of Wake Island near 21N166E. It then continues as a shear line crossing the Marianas just north of Saipan near 16N145E then continues to exit the discussion area near 10N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough stretches from EQ135E to a circulation south of Chuuk near 2N154E and continues to a second circulation south of Kosrae near 1N164E and continues to EQ170E. Convergence north of the circulations and trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 6N from 145E to 168E and south of Yap between 3N and 5N from 133E to 143E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro between the equator and 6N from 170E to 177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Windy	▲84	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼78

Around the Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲82	▼67
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲40	▼19
Hong Kong	Rain	▲68	▼63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
London	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲75	▼56
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼69
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼30
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼37
Pusan	Rain	▲46	▼35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼45
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼26
Tokyo	Sunny	▲56	▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲38	▼21

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:42 PM	9:25 AM
Friday	10:29 PM	10:03 AM
Saturday	11:16 PM	10:41 AM
Sunday		11:20 AM
Monday	12:03 AM	12:00 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Hofschneider now chair of TALD

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) is now the new chairman of the 19th Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation after the TALD reorganized last Monday.

Aside from Hofschneider, the rest of the officials of the TALD are: Senate President Francisco Q. Cruz (Ind-Tinian) as vice chairman; Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian) as treasurer; and Borja as legislative secretary.

Hofschneider

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas congratulated Hofschneider and the rest of the new officers of the 19th TALD for their assumption to their new posts.

"I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Senator Hofschneider, as well as the other officers of the delegation, on their new roles and extend my gratitude and sincerest ascension on for the former chairman, Senator Francisco M. Borja, for his outstanding leadership and work for the People of Tinian. I look forward to working with our new Chairman and the rest of the members of our delegation to continue moving projects forward to provide better services and programs for our people," he said. ***(PR)***

MRE to install 1st solar service with battery backup

Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc., a locally owned renewable energy company, and partner Sunnova, a world leader in solar service, will introduce residential solar service agreements to homeowners on Saipan with battery storage.

MRE will be showcasing the first CNMI home with installed solar with battery storage at the home of Matias Chargualaf along Chalan Tun Antonio Apa Road in Finasisu this Friday, Jan. 27, 10am.

Tracy Voacolo, CEO of MRE, stated, "We are very excited about this launch with Sunnova. Not only can we offer solar energy with zero money down using the Sunnova solar service agreement but offering this same agreement with battery storage is monumental."

Saipan just experienced a major typhoon with damaging winds of over 15mph. The average homeowner was without power for over 48 days because of the more than 200 power poles destroyed by the typhoon.

Now with the convergence of energy storage and renewable energy by Outback Power Technologies, the leader in battery technology in the industry, it is the perfect pairing for the island community of Saipan.

"Sunnova aspires to bring solar service to homeowners across the nation and is thrilled to be the first solar service company providing battery storage on Saipan with the help of Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. and Outback power," chief marketing officer Jordan Frugé said.

With the ever-increasing cost of energy, homeowners can finally use solar energy and battery storage to save money, reduce their carbon footprint, and have power even when utility power is not available. Ribbon cutting and open house on the first solar energy system with battery storage on Saipan

Why solar as a service with battery storage?

■ Homeowners can produce electricity during the day with solar and store it in batteries for use in the evening hours.

■ Homeowners with solar and battery storage will have power even when utility power isn't available.

■ Homeowners with solar and battery storage will not be affected by rolling blackouts and other outages.

■ Zero cost for solar energy system and battery storage installation, maintenance and insurance.

■ 24/7 system monitoring to ensure system performance.

■ Hassle and Risk Free Program.

Contact Information: Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI Island Commercial Center, Middle Road Across Shell Highway Express in Gualo Rai Phone: (671) 233-4673 www.micronesiarenewableenergy.com/cnmi and www.micronesiarenewableenergy.com. ***(PR)***

WRITING WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan resident and author of 20 books, Walt Goodridge, shares information, inspiration and ideas in his "How to Write a Book" workshop held last Saturday, Jan 23, at the Joeten Kiyu Library. The workshop was attended by 25 aspiring writers made up of both adults and students.

Limited water service in portions of Capitol Hill

A portion of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers who receive their water from the Capitol Hill reservoir will experience limited water service for the next two weeks as work continues on the Capitol Hill Water Line and Pressure Improvement Project.

Customers in the 1300 block on Capitol Hill, Wireless Ridge, and Talofofo will receive daily water service between 8am and 12pm to allow CUC's contractor, Maeda Pacific, to continue upgrading the pre-existing cast iron and steel network to a new Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipe.

This stage of the project is scheduled to take two weeks. Customers will experience improved water pressure once they are reconnected to the upgraded main distribution lines, and regularly scheduled water hours will resume from 8am to 3pm.

New water hours for Garapan

In Garapan, customers between Micro Beach Road and Orchid Street, including Lower Mihaville, will receive water service from 12pm to 6am, while customers between Orchid Street and Gualo Rai Road will receive water service from 6am to 12pm.

For more information, contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(CUC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Torres guest speaker at SHRM meeting today

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will address the Society of Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter at its first 2016 meeting today at Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

The local SHRM chapter is honored to host Torres as its special guest speaker. Torres will address issues related to the planned 902 consultations with the federal government, what the Human Resource community can expect in the upcoming year, relative to jobs, immigration issues, the workforce, workforce training opportunities, the looming manpower shortage with the anticipated casinos and other development, and other employment and human resource related topics. The governor will also provide an opportunity for questions from the audience.

This special meeting will be held today, Jan. 28, 2016, at PIC's Charley's Cabaret from 11:30am to 1:30 pm and will include lunch at a cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited and can be reserved by contacting Pina Deleon Guerrero by phone at 236-8873 or by e-mail at pdlguerrero@laolaobaygolf.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

SHRM Chapter members, other HR professionals, managers, and the general public are invited to come and enjoy this special presentation by the Commonwealth's new governor.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org <http://nmichapter.shrm.org/>. ***(SHRM)***

UOG looking for vendors of 2016 Charter Day

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam is looking for vendors who are interested in sponsorship, selling products, and soliciting information throughout the Charter Day 2016 event. Vendor slots are open to profit, non-profit, government, and others. Charter Day is on March 8, 2016 and begins at 8am. This year's theme is "Triton Spirit: One University, Many Voices."

If you would like more information about this event, please contact Samantha Maria Fernandez David at (671) 735-2222 or e-mail us at uog.sga54@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Regional Language Arts Conference Feb. 19-20

The University of Guam's 28th Annual Regional Language Arts Conference will be held at the Pacific Star Hotel on Friday, Feb. 19, from 4pm to 6pm, and on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8am to 4pm.

Register online at http://www.uog.edu/CLASS-LAC.

Call Kathleen Duenas or Velma Camacho at 735-2725 for more information. ***(PR)***

Small craft advisory until Saturday

A small craft advisory is in effect in the CNMI through Saturday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, fresh trade winds will increase to strong on Wednesday and continue for the next several days.

Combined seas of 8 to 10 feet will increase to between 9 and 12 feet by Thursday due to increasing northwest swell associated with a shear line. East swell will increase later in the week due to a trade wind surge.

Combined seas of 7 to 9 feet last night will increase to between 8 and 10 feet overnight. Combined seas are expected to peak between 9 and 12 feet Thursday before slowly decreasing below hazardous levels Saturday.

Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet on west and north facing shores could build to a range of 8 to 11 feet by early Wednesday. The hazardous surf will gradually subside by Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is advising the general public and inexperience mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid navigating in these conditions and take extra precautionary measures on entering and leaving harbor and inlets. Avoid also venturing into the water along exposed reefs and beaches especially those facing north and west exposures as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(PR)***

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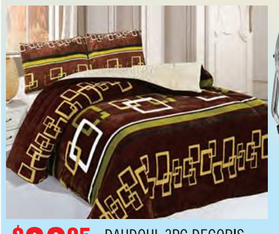
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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Business

FHB reports 4Q net income of $63.6M

HONOLULU, Hawaii—First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii's largest bank, today announced net income of $63.6 million for the three months ended Dec. 31, 2015, an increase of 3.6 percent over the fourth quarter of 2014. Net income for the year ended Dec. 31, 2015, was $236.1 million, up 4.3 percent over 2014. First

Hawaiian grew its total assets to $19.3 billion at year-end, an increase of 6.7 percent over 2014. The bank's loan and lease portfolio reached $10.7 billion and deposits achieved $16.1 billion at Dec. 31, 2015, increases of 6.9 percent and 9.1 percent, respectively, comparedto December 31, 2014.

At Dec. 31, 2015, First Hawaiian achieved the following:

■ Total Assets: reached a record $19.3 billion, up 6.7 percent

■ Total Loans and Leases: were a record $10.7 billion, up 6.9 percent.

■ Total Deposits: achieved a record $16.1 billion, an increase of 9.1 percent

■ Nonperforming Assets to Total Assets: was 0.09 percent, a decrease of 43.8 percent

■ Efficiency Ratio: was 44.85 percent for the year ended December 31, 2015.

■ During the fourth quarter 2015:

■ The bank was the first Hawaii company to contribute $25,000 to the American Red Cross of the Northern Marianas Islands to support Typhoon Soudelor relief efforts in Saipan.

■ First Hawaiian Bank employees and retirees raised a record $712,487 through Kokua Mai, the bank's annual employee giving campaign. For the fourth year in a row, 98 percent of all First Hawaiian Bank employees made monetary donations to assist 35 charities in Hawaii, Guam and the CNMI.

■ The First Hawaiian Bank fourth quarter 2015 Business Activity Report (BAR) showed Hawaii credit and debit card sales volume rose by 8.44 percent with growth in 13 out of 16 sectors. This was the 24th consecutive quarter of positive growth. For the year, credit and debit sales transactions increased by 7.00 percent overall for same store sales over the prior year.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with $19.3 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. ***(PR)***

Report: Denmark is least corrupt; Somalia, N. Korea the most

BERLIN (AP)—Public-sector corruption is still a major problem around the world but more countries are improving than worsening and the United States and United Kingdom have reached their best rankings ever, an anti-corruption watchdog said Wednesday.

Denmark remained at the top of Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, a closely watched global barometer, for the second consecutive year as the country perceived as least corrupt. It scored 91 points out of a possible 100 while North Korea and Somalia remained at the bottom with unchanged scores of 8.

The index is based on expert opinions of public sector corruption, looking at a range of factors like whether governmental leaders are held to account or go unpunished for corruption, the perceived prevalence of bribery, and whether public institutions respond to citizens' needs.

The U.S. rose one spot this year to 16th place with a score of 76, tying with Austria. The U.K. rose three spots to place 10th, with a score of 81 that tied it with Germany and Luxembourg. The other top spots, from second to ninth, were occupied by Finland, Sweden, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore and Canada.

Despite so many countries in the top 10, Transparency said there was still a lot of room for improvement in Europe and Central Asia, which it grouped as one region, saying "in low-scorers Hungary, Poland and Turkey, politicians and their cronies are increasingly hijacking state institutions to shore up power."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Toyota stays No. 1 automaker, sells 10.15M vehicles in 2015

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. said Wednesday it sold 10.151 million vehicles in 2015, retaining its status as the world's top-selling automaker for the fourth straight year. The sales figure compared with 2015 sales of 9.93 million vehicles for Volkswagen AG and 9.8 million for General Motors. Toyota, which makes the Prius hybrid, Camry sedan and Lexus luxury models, has forecast sales at 10.114 million vehicles in 2016. Its actual sales in 2015 beat its forecast for sales of 10.098 million vehicles. Volkswagen AG, which overtook Toyota in sales in the first half of the year, suffered in the second half from an emissions cheating scandal involving diesel cars. Auto sales in major markets such as the U.S. and Japan have slowed, while emerging markets that had sustained growth in recent years, such as Thailand and Indonesia, have weakened. In 2014, Toyota sold 10.23 million vehicles, Volkswagen sold 10.14 million vehicles, and General Motors was third at 9.92 million vehicles. Detroit-based GM, which makes Cadillacs, Chevrolets, Buicks and Opels, was the top-selling automaker for more than seven decades until being surpassed by Toyota in 2008. GM retook the sales crown for one year in 2011, when a tsunami and quake disaster struck northeastern Japan, disrupting production.

China's anti-graft body investigates statistics bureau chief

BEIJING (AP)—The head of the bureau that gathers China's economic data is under investigation by the anti-graft agency in a possible expansion of an anticorruption campaign that has shaken state companies and securities firms. Wang Bao'an, chairman of the National Bureau of Statistics and a former deputy finance minister, is suspected of "severe disciplinary violations," the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a statement Tuesday. It gave no details. Dozens of senior figures in China's state-owned industry, finance firms and regulatory agencies have been detained in a 4-year-old anti-corruption crackdown led by President Xi Jinping. Just hours before Tuesday's announcement, Wang had briefed reporters at a news conference about China's economic performance in 2015. Wang, 52, was appointed chief of the statistics bureau last April after serving 24 years in the Ministry of Finance. Chinese anti-graft investigators can spend years assembling a case, suggesting accusations against Wang might stem from his previous post instead of his short tenure at the statistics agency.

Nation

Shots fired, 1 killed in arrest of Oregon militants

The FBI and Oregon State Police on Tuesday arrested the leaders of an armed group that has occupied a national wildlife refuge for the past three weeks, conducting a traffic stop that prompted gunfire—and one death—along a highway through the frozen high country.

Militant leader Ammon Bundy and his followers were reportedly heading to a community meeting at the senior center in John Day, a Grant County town about 70 miles north of Burns, to address local residents to discuss their views on federal management of public lands.

The Oregonian newspaper reported several hundred people had gathered at the John Day Senior Center on Tuesday evening and were told the "guest speakers" would not be appearing.

In a statement, the FBI and Oregon State Police said

AP

In a Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 file photo, Ammon Bundy speaks during an interview at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, near Burns, Ore.

agents had made eight arrests: Bundy, 40; his brother Ryan Bundy, 43; Brian Cavalier, 44; Shawna Cox, 59; and Ryan Payne, 32, during a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 395 Tuesday afternoon. Authorities said two others—Joseph Donald O'Shaughnessy, 45, and Peter Santilli, 50—were arrested separately in Burns, while FBI agents in Arizona arrested another, Jon Eric Ritzheimer, 32.

Each will face a federal felony charge of conspiracy to impede officers of the United States from discharging their official duties through the use of force, intimidation or threats, authorities said. No indictments or federal charging documents had been made public.

Medics beat blizzard to make transplant happen

STONY BROOK, N.Y. (AP)—Melanie Chirichella had been waiting a year and a half for a kidney transplant when she finally got the call from her doctors Saturday that they had found a perfect match in South Carolina.

"It was like a miracle," the 64-year-old told The Associated Press. "When she called and said, 'We have a kidney for you,' I almost fell off the bed."

But there was a problem: A blizzard was raging up and down the East Coast. The medical team would have to beat the elements and the clock to make sure the transplant surgery happened while the organ, taken from a brain-dead patient on Friday morning, was still usable.

In the end, Chirichella got her new kidney, but it required a combination of daring and improvisation, maybe even a little recklessness. And more than once, it looked as if she and the organ might not even make it to the operating room.

At first, emergency crews told her there would be no way an ambulance could navigate through whiteout conditions to bring Chirichella the nearly 20 miles from her home in Bohemia, New York, to Stony Brook University Hospital on Long Island.

But paramedic Pete Amato was undeterred. A decade ago, his brother had received a lifesaving kidney transplant. He knew there wouldn't be time to wait. He hopped behind the wheel of a hospital SUV, turned on the lights and sirens and hit the road.

"This needs to happen," Amato remembered thinking. "I knew the sense of urgency."

Ideally, doctors try to transplant a kidney within 24 hours of its removal, but that can be extended to 48 hours under the right conditions.

The kidney, plus a second one bound for a different patient at New York City's Presbyterian Hospital, had left Charleston, South Carolina, on a Delta flight Friday evening.

Driver: Principal fatally hit by bus pushed kids out of way

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—An Indianapolis elementary school principal was seen pushing several students out of the way of an oncoming bus before the vehicle fatally struck her, authorities said Tuesday.

Susan Jordan, the principal of Amy Beverland Elementary School on the city's far northeast side, was killed and two 10-year-old children were hospitalized with serious but non-life-threatening injuries when the bus suddenly lurched forward, authorities said.

Buses were lined up outside the school when the accident happened around 2:45 p.m., Indianapolis Fire Department Capt. Rita Reith said.

"At some point, the stationary bus lurched forward and jumped the curb. The bus was not moving at the time directly before it jumped the curb," Reith said.

The female bus driver told firefighters she was not sure what caused the bus to accelerate, Reith said in a statement Tuesday evening. The driver also said "in the instant that the accident occurred" she saw Jordan push several students out of the way, according to the statement.

The driver and 25 students on the bus were examined by emergency responders but did not require treatment, Reith said.

Jordan, who had been principal of the school for 22 years, was loved by her staff and the school community, Lawrence Township Schools Superintendent Shawn Smith said at a news conference.

"This is a great example of an educational leader in our state and our city. ... Just a phenomenal individual that truly cared about children. This is a tragic situation that we have. This loss is going to ripple across our district of 15,000 students," Smith said.

The district canceled classes at all of its schools Wednesday and said in a statement that four locations, including a transportation center, would be "open for emotional support to our staff and families."

Asia

Japanese Emperor Akihito visits Philippines to mourn WWII dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Japan's emperor said Tuesday that his nation must remember the tremendous loss of life in the Philippines in World War II, as he and his wife began their first visit to the Southeast Asian country, which suffered under Japanese wartime occupation.

"Many Filipinos, Americans and Japanese lost their lives in the Philippines during the war," Emperor Akihito said in a statement he read before departing from Tokyo. "Especially in the battle in Manila, a tremendously large number of innocent Filipino civilians were victims. Upon making this visit, we need to bear this in mind at all times."

The 1945 battle for Manila between Japan and allied U.S. and Philippine forces leveled the capital city and left more than 100,000 dead, according to Philippine historians.

AP

Japan's Emperor Akihito, center, Empress Michiko, left, and Philippine President Benigno Aquino stand at attention as the national anthems are played upon their arrival Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016 in suburban Pasay city, south of Manila, Philippines.

Relations between Japan and the Philippines have improved dramatically in the seven decades since the war, with Japan becoming a major trading partner and aid donor for the Philippines. Akihito's visit is seen as a strong sign of a further deepening of ties as the two countries, which are both close American allies, confront China over long-contested maritime territories.

Japan's Self Defense forces have staged joint search and rescue exercises with the Philippine navy near the disputed South China Sea and are providing the Philippines with coast guard patrol boats.

Kerry to press China on North Korea, South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is in Beijing to push Chinese officials to do more to rein in North Korea's nuclear activities and decrease tensions over disputed parts of the South China Sea.

Wrapping up an eight-day, around-the-world diplomatic mission Wednesday, Kerry was meeting with senior Chinese officials to press them to take a firmer stance in urging North Korea to end its nuclear testing. China is North Korea's main link to the outside world, and American officials say Beijing isn't doing enough to persuade North Korea to stop the tests and return to disarmament talks.

The so-called six-party talks between the North and South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan have been stalled since they were last held in December 2008. Pyongyang has since conducted three nuclear tests, including the latest on Jan. 6, sparking worries the country has made progress in its bomb program.

Kerry, who is meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, State Councilor Yang Jiechi and President Xi Jinping, will also be calling for China to halt land reclamation and construction in disputed areas of the South China Sea, which have alarmed its smaller neighbors.

Kerry arrived in China from stops in Laos and Cambodia, where he called on the two members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to present a united front in dealing with increasing Chinese assertiveness over the South China Sea claims. His visits to Vientiane and Phnom Penh come ahead of a summit with the leaders of all 10 ASEAN nations that President Barack Obama will host next month in California.

Asians haul out sweaters to cope with sudden cold snap

BANGKOK (AP)—After sweating through unseasonably high temperatures last week, residents of semi-tropical Thailand have had to scavenge through their closets for sweaters and scarves to keep the chill off their bones.

Much of the rest of Asia was also shivering.

In Hong Kong, the mercury dipped to its lowest in six decades. The rest of southern China also recorded unusually cold weather, with record-breaking low temperatures in many places.

In Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, the temperature dropped to 5.4 degrees C (42 F), the lowest since 1977. Meteorologists said mountaintop snowfalls across a dozen northern provinces were unprecedented.

Temperatures in Bangkok, Thailand's capital, hit an unseasonably high of 34.6 degrees C (93 F) on Saturday only to plunge to a low of 16.1 degrees C (61 F) on Monday. The weather was still cool on Tuesday, and Bangkok residents could be seen wearing jackets and wool caps.

Schools in Bangkok advised parents to bundle up their little ones with extra warm clothing.

At piers along the banks of the Chao Phraya River, where packs of dogs cozy up to friendly tourists and vendors grilling food, some canines were dressed up in old shirts and discarded blankets, the work of a kind volunteer caretaker.

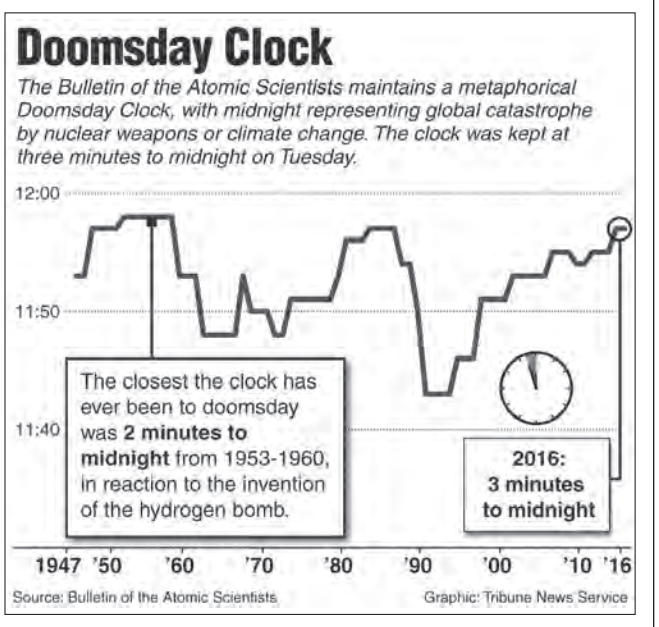
In provincial areas farther north, cold winter weather is not so unusual. Students in the city of Chiang Mai added fashionable jackets and sweaters to their ensembles, while country folk warmed themselves around bonfires at night.

Bangkokians had mixed feelings about the cold.

World

Scientists: 'Doomsday Clock' reflects grave threat to world

STANFORD, Calif. (AP)—Rising tension between Russia and the U.S., North Korea's recent nuclear test and a lack of aggressive steps to address climate change are putting the world under grave threat, scientists behind a "Doomsday Clock" that measures the likelihood of a global cataclysm said Tuesday.


Doomsday Clock
The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists maintains a metaphorical Doomsday Clock, with midnight representing global catastrophe by nuclear weapons or climate change. The clock was kept at three minutes to midnight on Tuesday.
12:00
11:50
11:40
The closest the clock has ever been to doomsday was 2 minutes to midnight from 1953-1960, in reaction to the invention of the hydrogen bomb.
2016: 3 minutes to midnight
1947 '50 '60 '70 '80 '90 '00 '10 '16
Source: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
Graphic: Tribune News Service

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists announced that the minute hand on the metaphorical clock remained at three minutes-to-midnight. The clock reflects how vulnerable the world is to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change and new technologies, with midnight symbolizing apocalypse.

"Unless we change the way we think, humanity remains in serious danger," said Lawrence Krauss, chair of the bulletin's Board of Sponsors.

Krauss said the Iran nuclear agreement and Paris climate accord were good news. But the good news was offset by nuclear threats, including tension between nuclear-armed states India and Pakistan, and uncertainty that the Paris accord will lead to concrete action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Health minister: Brazil is 'losing battle' against mosquito

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil's health minister says the country is sending some 220,000 troops to battle the mosquito blamed for spreading a virus suspected of causing birth defects—but he also says the war is already being lost.

Marcelo Castro said that nearly 220,000 members of Brazil's Armed Forces would go door-to-door to help in mosquito eradication efforts ahead of the country's Carnival celebrations. Agency spokesman Nivaldo Coelho said Tuesday details of the deployment are still being worked out.

Castro also said the government would distribute mosquito repellent to some 400,000 pregnant women who receive cash-transfer benefits.

But the minister also said the country has failed in efforts against the Aedes aegypti mosquito that transmits Zika, dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.

"The mosquito has been here in Brazil for three decades, and we are badly losing the battle against the mosquito," the ministers told reporters as a crisis group on Zika was meeting in the capital, Brasilia.

A massive eradication effort eliminated Aedes aegypti from Brazil during the 1950s, but the mosquito slowly returned over the following decades from neighboring nations, public health experts have said. That led to outbreaks of dengue, which was recorded in record numbers last year.

The arrival of Zika in Brazil last year initially caused little alarm, as the virus' symptoms are generally much milder than those of dengue. It didn't become a crisis until late in the year, when researchers made the link with a dramatic increase in reported cases of microcephaly, a rare birth defect that sees babies born with unusually small heads and can cause lasting developmental problems.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq says 40 bodies found in mass grave in Ramadi

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi forces have found more than 40 bodies, including those of women and children, in a mass grave in the city of Ramadi west of Baghdad, which they recently retook from Islamic State militants, officials said. Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Saad Maan said the grave in central Ramadi contained the bodies of civilians as well as police. Video footage from the site shows local security forces and a small forensics team wearing face masks and digging with shovels. Ramadi, the provincial capital of the sprawling Anbar province, fell to IS in May, marking a major setback for U.S.-allied Iraqi forces. Iraqi troops retook the city center last month with heavy coalition air support. Similar mass graves have been found in other areas liberated from the IS group in Syria and Iraq. The extremist group has boasted of massacring Shiites and other opponents, often releasing gruesome videos and pictures of the killings.

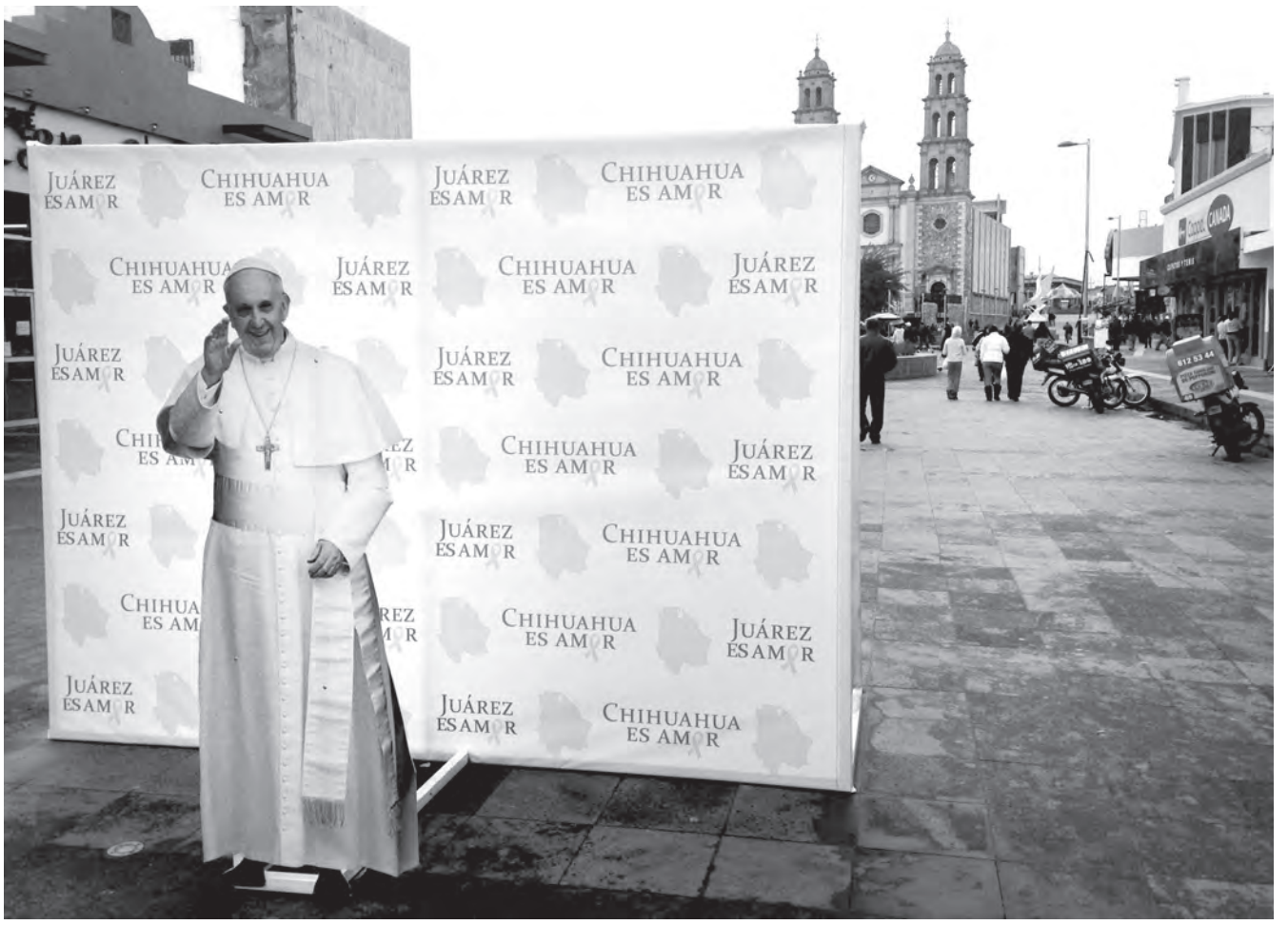
French taxis, air traffic controllers, schools on strike

PARIS (AP)—Paris police fired tear gas and taxi drivers lit bonfires on a major highway Tuesday amid nationwide strikes and protests over working conditions and competition from non-traditional services such as Uber. Prime Minister Manuel Valls met with taxi drivers in an apparent attempt to defuse tensions. He condemned the drivers' violence but promised to strengthen a police crackdown on the competing taxi services the drivers are protesting. He is also forming a panel of taxi company representatives and government ministers to discuss reforms in the sector. Tuesday's protests are the latest challenge to the Socialist government as it tries to modernize the economy and find France's place in an increasingly globalized, online marketplace.

Focus

IMMIGRATION
at center of Pope's visit to Mexico-US border

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

This photo taken Jan. 5, 2016, shows an installation of Pope Francis advertising the pope's upcoming visit to Juarez, Mexico. The city, on Mexico's northern border across from El Paso, Texas, is the last stop in the Pope's schedule 5-day trip to Mexico and officials on both sides of the border are preparing for the visit between Feb. 12-17.

REYNOSA, Mexico (AP)—The young Salvadoran woman was robbed and forced to dodge kidnappers working for a drug cartel during her four-month odyssey to this border city of belching factories and swirling dust across the Rio Grande from Texas.

She hoped to be on the other side long before Pope Francis visits the region next month and delivers what promises to be a highly symbolic homily addressing immigration. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims will flock to the border to hear him speak, and America's political class will likely be listening as well. Francis' Feb. 17 Mass in Ciudad Juarez comes just eight days after the New Hampshire primaries, and three before contests in South Carolina and Nevada.

Immigration has been a hot-button campaign issue particularly among Republican hopefuls such as Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, who have taken an increasingly hard line with Trump vowing to deport the more than 11 million immigrants living in the country illegally and Cruz aiming to end birthright citizenship for their U.S.-born children. It is also an issue close to Francis' heart, and while analysts doubt he will wade too blatantly into the political thicket, his very presence along the border speaking on the issue will turn heads.

"Migration is a complicated situation and he's not going to ignore the demands of national sovereignty ... (but) he's calling for a more open and generous approach," said Tom Quigley, former Latin America policy adviser for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "You can't assume that he's going to say 'You all come,' but he will clearly be urging the United States government, implicitly at least, to find ways of addressing the reasons why people are leaving El Salvador and Honduras and other countries."

For the Salvadoran woman, who gave only her last name, Miranda, all the talk makes little difference to her plans. She said she was not even aware the Pope was coming, and nothing Trump or the other candidates say can dissuade her from seeking a better life.

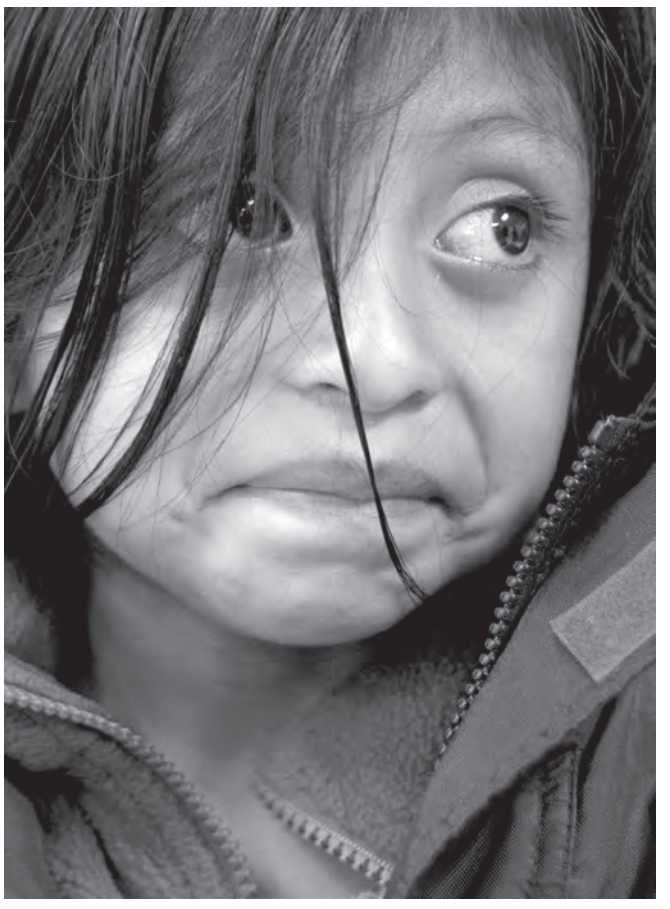
Back home in El Salvador—which last year recorded a homicide rate of 103 per 100,000 inhabitants, believed to be the highest of any country not in open war—she faced death threats from hyper-violent gangs that rule entire neighborhoods largely unchallenged.

"It does not make you want to go less," Miranda said of the rhetoric, "because you know that immigration is never going to stop."

Violence is also rampant in neighboring Guatemala and Honduras, the latter of which had been the world's reigning murder capital in recent years. Gangs in all three countries kill with impunity, extort broad swaths of the population and recruit young people so aggressively that some stop attending school or even leaving home.

Living in many parts of those countries "is like living in a dark, dangerous, dead-end alley, and migration is a dark, dangerous tunnel—but it's a tunnel," said Kay Andrade Eekhoff, who works for Catholic Relief Services in El Salvador overseeing programs for at-risk Central American youth.

Statistics show that many continue to risk the tunnel, despite a surge in enforcement by the U.S. and by Mexico along its own southern frontier. U.S. Customs and Border Protection says apprehensions of unaccompanied children mostly from Central America totaled 17,370 in October-December. That was up 117 percent from the same period a year earlier, while apprehensions of families rose 187 percent. Still, total detentions remain well below historic highs.



AP

In this Jan. 5, 2016 photo, Jennifer Lorenzo of Guatemala looks around as she sits on her father's lap inside a center that provides assistance to newly-arrived migrant families with children, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McAllen, Texas.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on Jan. 2 began rounding up Central American immigrants who entered without permission since May 2014.

Earlier this month Secretary of State John Kerry announced an expansion of a program letting Central Americans apply for refugee status before traveling north. But some say they may not qualify, or it's simply too dangerous to wait.

Those in a hurry include a 20-year-old man in San Salvador who was deported from the U.S. just months ago. On his last trip north, last summer, the Gulf drug cartel kidnapped and held him in Reynosa for five weeks until his family scraped together ransom. U.S. border agents later captured and sent him home. A police officer's son, he's now planning to try again after getting gang threats.

"They told me if I did not join them, something was going to happen to me or my dad," the man said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of gang reprisals.

Francis has made the plight of migrants one of the hallmarks of his papacy, denouncing what he called the "globalization of indifference" toward people desperate to flee poverty and persecution. He has taken his message of compassion to Lampedusa, Italy, destination for many African migrants, and to the European Union and the United Nations.

Last fall in the U.S. Congress, Francis lectured lawmakers that "we must not be taken aback by (migrants') numbers but rather view them as persons." He reminded them that they, too, descended from immigrants drawn by the dream of a new future.

In Ciudad Juarez, the Argentine-born Francis plans to celebrate Mass in a huge open field on the border and then walk to the Rio Grande to salute people on the other side in a powerful show of solidarity with his Latin American compatriots. Vatican officials say he intends to address violence and drug trafficking as well. Francis will also come close to fulfilling his wish to cross the border during the U.S. visit, something that was ultimately scrapped for logistical reasons.

It's a message that resonates with Sister Norma Pimentel, director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.

"They are people and we need to treat them that way," said Pimentel, whose work Francis has praised and who was invited to meet him in New York last year. "They need our help, and so we welcome them to restore their dignity."

Pimentel's center at the Sacred Heart church in McAllen receives about 100 migrants a day who have been detained, processed and released by the Border Patrol. Each adult gets an electronic monitoring anklet to ensure they make court appearances.

On a recent morning, Erica Johana Garcia was breakfasting with her two children at the center before catching a bus for the final leg of their journey to Los Angeles. They left Guatemala after thugs told her 15-year-old son they would rape his 8-year-old sister if he didn't join their gang.

Fingering her ankle bracelet, Garcia, 34, vowed to fight to be able to stay.

"I can't go back because I risk my children," she said, "especially my son."

Environment

Sea lion pups washing ashore because ocean can't support them

By AARON ORLOWSKI
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Once a year in June, sea lion mothers on the Channel Islands give birth to a pup. For the next 11 months, the mothers swim off to forage for days to provide food for themselves and milk for their progeny.

But in early 2015, calorie-dense sardines and anchovies—the best food—were hard to find. The mothers were forced to dive deeper and swim farther, and by the time they returned to the islands, they didn't have much milk to offer.

The ocean, which in years past had been full with food, was different, emptier, than before. The pups, hungry, struck out prematurely that winter. They wound up stranded on mainland beaches in record numbers, emaciated and starving.

As El Nino bears down on California this year, worse is expected.

Marine mammal care centers are preparing for a rash of strandings. They do so even as some marine biologists and ocean advocates warn that such a compassion-laden response is little more than a futile attempt to wrap a Band-Aid on an oceanwide problem that could last decades and may have been worsened by overfishing.

"We treat them as sacred animals," said Geoff Shester, the California campaign director for Oceana, an environmental group. "In the end, it's shortsighted to believe you're going to save the sea lions simply by rescuing them, rehabilitating them and then sending them out when there's not really enough food to go around.

"From a humane point of view, it makes sense, but it's really only addressing the symptom rather than the root cause."

No one knows how well the sea lion pups fare after rehabilitation, because "once you release them, the odds of seeing them again are really low, whether they make it or not," said Sharon Melin, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration wildlife biologist who studies sea lions.

"If the environment is really bad and adult females can't find food, then a young pup that doesn't really have experience feeding itself is going to have trouble, too," Melin added.

In a normal year, the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach, which relies on donations and government grants, will rehabilitate 100 to 120 sea lions. It may take in one that re-stranded after getting treated.

MCT
Recovering Northern Fur Seals await a meal at Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach, Calif.

In 2015, the center rescued a record-setting 534 sea lions, including more than two dozen that had re-stranded. The center is braced for even more this year.

"That's a high number, but it shows there's something wrong out in the wild," said Keith Matassa, the executive director at the mammal center.

What exactly is wrong, and why, is much less clear.

■■■

Every year for the past 35 years, NOAA research biologist Mark Lowry has chartered a plane and taken more than 6,000 aerial photos of sea lions at their Channel Island rookeries, where 99.8 percent of the U.S. sea lion population breeds. Later, in his office, he assembles the photos into a mosaic. Over the course of several months, he counts the sea lions one at a time.

By performing a series of calculations on the pup count number, he can come up with an estimate for the entire sea lion population.

Between 1975 — three years after the passage of the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, which outlawed the killing, capture or harassment of all marine mammals — and 2012, the pup population grew an average of 5.5 percent per year, to roughly 300,000 today. Such growth cannot continue indefinitely, and has, in fact, already flattened.

Historically, El Nino events such as the one California is experiencing now caused pup production to plummet. But three years ago, something changed. It wasn't an El Nino season, and births were very low. Something else was going on.

"The ecosystem changed," Lowry said. "Those poor animals are having a really hard time right now."

It's what El Nino does to sea lions' food supply — specifically the nutritious sardines and anchovies they prefer — that makes them suffer.

The health of those fish populations is driven by climate, said Dave Checkley, an oceanography professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla. Specifically, it's the way climate affects wind and ocean currents.

Plankton, which are eaten by fish, need nitrogen and sunlight to survive. When the wind currents are right, nitrogen and other nutrients are drawn up from the deep ocean to the sun-filled surface through a process called upwelling. The intensity and type of the wind changes over the course of decades because of varying climate cycles.

Whenever "the blob" — an unusually warm patch of water parked off the West Coast — or El Nino or something else prevents that upwelling, the plankton, fish and sea lions pay the price.

SEA LIONS

- Weight: 700 pounds for males; 240 pounds for females
- Length: 7.5 feet for males; 6 feet for females
- Lifespan: 20 to 30 years
- Diet: Squid, anchovies, mackerel, rockfish and sardines
- Range: Pacific Coast, from central Mexico to British Columbia
- Protected: Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972)

Last year, the blob prevented upwelling. That warm water has mostly dissipated, but now El Nino is having much the same effect.

In recent years, as ocean conditions have changed, the sardine and anchovy populations have collapsed. And fishing may be exacerbating the problem.

■■■

Though they're often spoken of together, sardines and anchovies "march to the beat of different drummers," as Checkley said.

Sardines live farther from shore and anchovies live closer. Sardines prefer warm water and eat the smaller plankton that thrive there. Anchovies prefer colder water and the larger plankton that come with it. Sardines are most common off the West Coast of the United States, while anchovies are more plentiful off Peru.

After a sardine collapse in the 1950s, the fish essentially disappeared until the late 1980s and early 1990s, when population growth accelerated. At their peak in the early 2000s, they could be found as far north as Vancouver Island in Canada, a place they migrate to only when the population is high, above 700,000 tons.

Then came a slide. In 2013 and 2014, Canada saw no sardines — an early warning sign. A stock assessment in 2014 contained a now-recognized error that allowed fishing to continue that year.

In 2015, a new stock assessment revealed that the sardine population had dropped below a threshold of 150,000 tons. Federal regulators closed the fishery.

It was a collapse that two NOAA scientists — David Demer and Juan Zwolinski — had forecast as "imminent" several years before. The prediction was little heeded at the time, and fishing continued.

Though ending fishing wouldn't have staved off the collapse, "any removal of fish will accelerate that decline," Zwolinski said.

To predict the collapse, Demer and Zwolinski tied sardine population health to a 60-year oceanic climate cycle called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. In the 1940s and 1950s, just before that well-documented sardine collapse, the ocean was going through a cold-water cycle.

The same thing was happening in the late 2000s, the researchers noted, and the sardine population started to crash.

Even though the ocean switched a couple of years ago to the warm cycle that sardines prefer, the fish haven't started to recover. Demer predicts they won't until 2020 or 2025.

Anchovies had a much closer shave last year.

During the last quarter of the 20th century, fishermen largely targeted sardines, leaving anchovies mostly alone. By 1995, federal regulators were so unconcerned with anchovy populations that they set a maximum haul for fishermen — 25,000 tons per year — and haven't done another assessment of the stock for 20 years.

With such a low take, and fishermen not actually taking even that much anchovy, regulators figured there was no way fishermen could deplete the population.

The anchovy population, low in the 1950s, stayed mostly stable until the mid-2000s. Then, between 2009 and 2011, it plummeted to fewer than 20,000 tons, according to an analysis of historic larvae and egg levels led by NOAA fisheries biologist Alec MacCall and published in the journal Fisheries Research in November.

"The estimated spawning biomass decreased by over 99 percent from 2005 to 2009, and merits the term 'collapse,'" the researchers wrote.

In the past few years, anchovy catches have risen dramatically. And with the population so low, fishing may now be having an outsize impact.

Pretty much all the fished anchovies are coming from the Monterey Bay area, where a large school has congregated.

"As of 2011, the stock was so low that if they had caught 25,000 tons, they might have done some major ecological damage," said Steve Marx, the Pew Charitable Trusts' lead policy expert on West Coast forage fish.

This fall, federal regulators will do an official stock assessment and consider updating the 25,000-ton rule.

Life & Style

In Oscars crisis, Chris Rock and a microphone loom large

AP
In this Feb. 28, 2015, file photo, Chris Rock appears onstage at Comedy Central's "Night of Too Many Stars: America Comes Together for Autism Programs" at the Beacon Theatre in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—When Chris Rock first hosted the Oscars in 2005, the four black actors nominated that year—Morgan Freeman, Don Cheadle, Sophie Okonedo and Jamie Foxx (twice!)—didn't escape his notice.

"It's like the Def Oscar Jam!" Rock exclaimed.

The story will be slightly different this time around.

When Rock strides onto the Dolby Theatre stage on Feb. 28, he'll see no nominated African-American actors before him. He'll instead be greeted by a Hollywood beset by a crisis over diversity that has led to calls for a boycott of the broadcast, spurred the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences to rewrite its membership bylaws and even sparked pleas for Rock, himself, to pull out.

In the ongoing fallout, Rock has loomed on the horizon like Judgment Day. But it's unclear just what awaits the academy and Hollywood come show time. A reckoning? A catharsis? Awkward fits of laughter?

Probably all of the above.

What is certain is that a confluence of events has placed one of America's most perceptive and sharp-tongued commentators on race smack dab in the middle of a storm that could hardly suit anyone better. It's safe to say that no Academy Awards opening monologue has ever been more anticipated. The spotlight on Oscar night will be trained on no one—not Leonardo DiCaprio or Jennifer Lawrence—like it is on Rock.

"This could be a defining moment for Chris Rock," Cheadle told The Associated Press. "And I hope it is."

Cheadle is far from alone. In the turmoil that has enveloped the Academy Awards since a second straight year of white nominees filled the acting categories, everyone from Spike Lee to George Clooney has had their say on the issue.

But despite constant clamoring—and TMZ cameras chasing him outside a comedy club over the weekend—Rock has been mum. Other than a tweet in which he unveiled his first promo for the show—and referred to the Oscars as "the White BET Awards"—he has stayed quiet amid uproar all around him.

Reginald Hudlin, who's co-producing this year's broadcast, sought to assure viewers, telling "Entertainment Tonight" that Rock is "hard at work" and that he had thrown out preparations and was now "writing a new show."

"And, yes, the academy is ready for him to do that," Hudlin said. "They're excited about him doing that."

But Rock's publicist, Leslie Sloane, on Monday shot down Hudlin's remarks, saying the comedian "has made no decisions about the content of the show." The point was clear: No one is going to speak for Rock except Rock himself. "All will be revealed on February 28th," said Sloane, ominously.

His silence hasn't stopped others from chiming in. R&B singer Tyrese Gibson and rapper 50 Cent have said Rock should step down. Golden Globes host Ricky Gervais encouraged Rock to start the show "in a KKK hood, then whip it off & say, 'Sorry, it's the only way I could get in.'"

Whoopi Goldberg has defended him: "Boycotting doesn't work and it's also a slap in the face of Chris Rock," she said. And Arsenio Hall, who helped give Rock his start, said: "It's so important that he's on the mic that night."

As one of the top stand-ups in the country, the 50-year-old Rock has long weaved uncommonly frank and provocative discussions about race into his act, movies and TV shows. His first comedy album, "Born Suspect," was about being presumed guilty of any crime because of his skin color. One of his most divisive routines was when he drew a contrast between "black people" and "n------" in his special "Bring the Pain."

In 2014, as he was releasing his last movie, "Top Five," which he wrote and directed, Rock turned to Hollywood in a widely hailed essay in which he was both critical and sanguine about what he called "a white industry."

Review: Third time's a charm for the witty 'Kung Fu Panda 3'

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

If you're one of those people—and I'm with you—who roll your eyes when handed a pair of 3D glasses at the multiplex, wondering if all this rigmarole is REALLY necessary, then take heart: The lovely, color-popping visuals in "Kung Fu Panda 3" are well worth those darned glasses.

And the evocative DreamWorks Animation visuals are accompanied by just enough heart, witty dialogue and kid-friendly humor—anything about gorging on dumplings, for example—to make this an all-around extremely satisfying third installment in the popular series. Like a well-made dumpling, it's not too heavy but not too light, has the right amount of spice, and leaves one with some appetite for the next time.

Much of the appeal of the "Panda" films is, of course, the starry cast of voices, and it's fun to try to figure out who they are, rather than informing yourself beforehand (but if you do, stop reading here). Of course, you'll already know that Jack Black is back, and in fine shape, as Po, our rotund panda hero and reluctant Dragon Warrior.

Black's goofy persona is perfect for lines like, when he discovers other pandas don't use chopsticks to slow them down: "I always KNEW I wasn't eating up to my full potential!" That was my personal favorite, but the kids in the audience were overwhelmingly partial to this one, hurled mockingly by the overmatched Po at his taunting, evil opponent: "Chitty, chitty, chat, chat. Chat, chat, chat."

The film, directed by Jennifer Yuh Nelson and Alessandro Carloni, begins in the spirit realm, where Oogway, the ancient kung fu master (and tortoise), is suddenly attacked by the villainous bull Kai, a former friend. Kai has been spending the last few centuries collecting all the "chi" power from kung fu masters and storing it in amulets. His goal is to bring his supernatural army to the mortal world and defeat Po, his anointed opponent.

But the important thing to know about Kai—Master of Pain, Beast of Vengeance, Maker of Widows—is that he's voiced by Simmons, the Oscar-winning "Whiplash" actor who terrorized poor Miles Teller as a nightmarish jazz band conductor. This guy knows from cruelty.

Luckily, Po feels totally confident and up to the task. NOT! But first, an update: Our roly-poly friend has been busily goofing around, as usual, when the old master Shifu (Dustin Hoffman) informs him he must take over the task of teaching kung fu. "ME teach?" Po asks. Shifu replies: "If you only do what you CAN do, you will never be more than what you are now."

If that weren't enough drama, Po's biological father, Li, has turned up, causing consternation for Po's adoptive father, Mr. Ping (the very funny James Hong). "How do we know he's even related to you?" Mr. Ping - a goose, of course - says angrily, as the pandas happily bump bellies.

Po decides to journey with Li to the secret mountain enclave where pandas live to master his own "chi," which he'll need to defeat Kai. In this charming sequence, set in a gorgeous Shangri-La-like setting, Po meets—and hugs, and hugs—his extended panda family. They include adorable young'uns (a couple are the offspring of Angelina Jolie, who's back here as Tigress) and a sexy ribbon dancer, Mei Mei (Kate Hudson, hamming it up).

Ultimately, this is a story about having the courage to live up to one's potential - a potential one might not know one had. "I like who I am," Po says early on. "You don't even KNOW who you are," Shifu replies.

It's a conversation we could all have with our kids. Ideally, we'd soften it with some wit and a whole bunch of dumplings.

"Kung Fu Panda 3," a 20th Century Fox and DreamWorks Animation release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America "for martial arts action and some mild rude humor." Running time: 95 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Fox Searchlight acquires Sundance hit 'Birth of a Nation'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Fox Searchlight Pictures won a bidding war at the Sundance Film Festival for "The Birth of a Nation," paying a record-setting $17.5 million for the film's worldwide distribution rights.

The studio announced the deal Tuesday after the film premiered to a standing ovation a day earlier.

It tells the true story of Nat Turner, a slave who taught himself to read and became a preacher before ultimately leading a deadly rebellion that wiped out 60 slave owners.

Fox Searchlight did not disclose the amount of its winning bid, reported to be $17.5 million. Past high-priced titles such as 2013's "The Way, Way Back" and 2006's "Little Miss Sunshine" topped out in the $10-12 million range.

Writer, director, producer and star Nate Parker spent seven years making the film he described as a passion project he hopes will serve as a "healing mechanism for America."

Fox Searchlight says it will release "The Birth of a Nation" later this year.

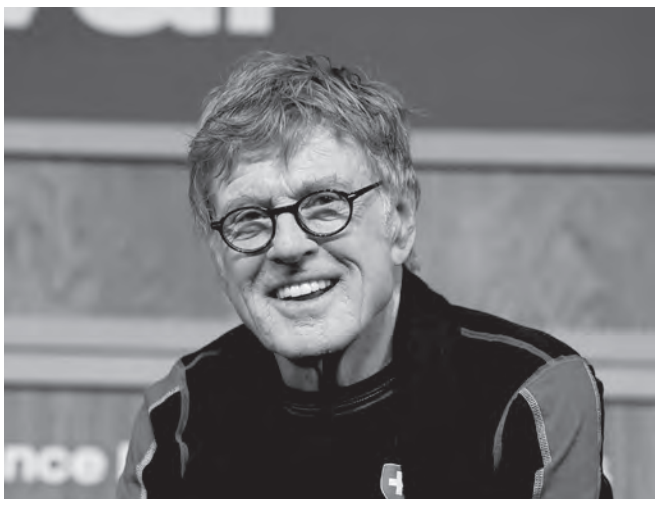
Robert Redford knows Sundance has gotten too big

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Robert Redford is pretty sure this is the best Sundance Film Festival they've ever had, and he also knows that things have to change.

It's not the films. The quality, he said, is better than ever. It's the size.

"I'm starting to hear some negative comments about how crowded it is and how difficult it is to get from venue to venue when there's traffic and people in the streets and so forth," Redford said. "We're going to have to look at that."

Redford still seems somewhat bemused that the Festival grew the way it did over the past three decades. He sees it as a combination of the narrowing of the entertainment business—when filmmakers and actors had to look outside of Hollywood to find material and projects worth doing—and a product of globalization.



AP

In this Jan. 21, 2016 file photo, Robert Redford, founder and president of the Sundance Institute, participates in the 2016 Sundance Film Festival Opening Day Press Conference in Park City, Utah.

"When actors came who were well known, then the paparazzi came. Then once the paparazzi came, the fashion houses came. Suddenly this thing was going haywire," he said, laughing that the recession actually helped temper the frivolousness a bit.

But people continue to turn out in droves, looking to be among the first to see a breakout filmmaker's debut—like Ryan Coogler's "Fruitvale Station" or Damien Chazelle's "Whiplash."

"As it grew, so did the crowds, so did the development in Park City. Well, at some point, if both those things continue to grow, they're going to begin to choke each other," Redford said. "So then I have to think about, oh, do we now risk being who we are in the first place? Do we risk (losing) the heart and soul of what we were when we started against the odds. ... Do we have to now rethink things?"

Ideas are already swirling in Redford's brain about how the Festival can and should evolve.

"You have a couple of choices. You can go hard and say we're going to stop it. Say 'that's the end.' Let it go. Let someone else do it," he said. "Or, you say well, if you want to keep it going, we can't keep it going the way things are."

'The X-Files' reaches more than 16 million on return

NEW YORK (AP)—Mulder and Scully received a big assist from the NFL in attracting more than 16 million television viewers to the premiere of their return in Fox's "The X-Files."

Fox's iconic series starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson is back for a limited run, and Fox schedulers smiled on them by booking the show directly after the NFC championship game between Arizona and Carolina. That game was seen by 45.7 million people on Sunday, the Nielsen company said.

AP

Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny laugh during an interview at the season premiere of 'The X-Files' at the California Science Center on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, in Los Angeles, Calif.

While more people watched "NCIS" last week, "The X-Files" had more than twice as many viewers as any other scripted series among viewers aged 18-to-49, Nielsen said. That's the audience Fox cares the most about.

CBS' coverage of the AFC championship between New England and Denver wasn't in prime time, but it was seen by an average of 53.3 million viewers Sunday on CBS. That made it the top-rated AFC championship game in 30 years, Nielsen said.

As the game was reaching its conclusion, CBS' telecast hit a peak of 63 million viewers between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. EST.

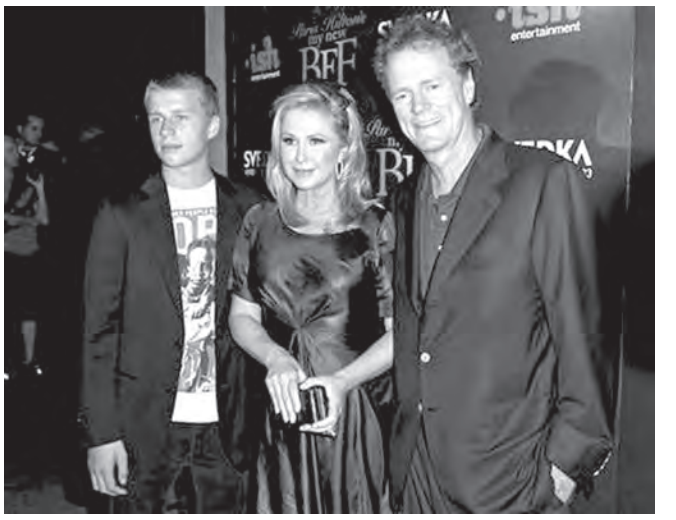
The NFC championship helped Fox to an easy ratings win, with the network averaging 13.2 million viewers in prime time. CBS had 8.7 million, NBC had 4.9 million, ABC had 4 million, Univision had 2.1 million, the CW had 2 million, Telemundo had 1.5 million and ION Television had 1.4 million.

Fox News Channel was the week's most popular cable network, averaging 2.05 million viewers in prime time. HGTV had 1.73 million, USA had 1.69 million, TBS had 1.67 million and Discovery had 1.6 million.

NBC's "Nightly News" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 10.3 million viewers. ABC's "World News Tonight" was second with 9.8 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 8.5 million viewers.

For the week of Jan. 18-24, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: NFL Football: NFC Championship, Arizona at Carolina, Fox, 45.74 million; "NFC Championship Post-Game Show," Fox, 33.9 million; "The OT," Fox, 24.32 million; "NCIS," CBS, 17.51 million; "The X-Files," Fox, 16.19 million; "NCIS: New Orleans," CBS, 13.31 million; "Scorpion," CBS, 11.61 million; "Blue Bloods," CBS, 11.56 million; "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 11.09 million; "NCIS: Los Angeles, CBS, 10.64 million.

Hotel heir Conrad Hilton ordered into drug treatment



AP

In this Sept. 30, 2008, file photo, Conrad Hilton, left, Kathy Hilton, center, and Rick Hilton arrive at the launch party of new MTV series "Paris Hilton's My New BFF" in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hotel heir Conrad Hilton has been ordered into substance abuse treatment after failing drug tests and violating his probation.

City News Service says a Los Angeles judge on Tuesday ordered Hilton into a residential treatment program for at least 90 days. The judge rejected a request by authorities to put Hilton behind bars for 60 days.

The 21-year-old was sentenced to probation and community service last year after pleading guilty to disrupting a British Airways flight.

Authorities say he violated probation by trespassing, failing drug tests, failing to complete three treatment programs and traveling out of California without permission from his probation officer.

Long marriage is left in limbo by wife's attraction to women

DEAR ABBY: After 27 years of marriage, my wife told me she is attracted to other women. To my knowledge, she has acted on this only once.

Every day I wonder where our relationship stands. One day she can't see herself without me; the next, she says we should divorce. I don't know if I should end this or wait to see where it goes.

I will need counseling if we divorce, but currently I can't afford it. Yes, I love her, but what matters most to me is that she is happy. I don't have anyone else to talk to about this. Any suggestions?

MR. D. IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MR. D.: After 27 years of marriage I can only imagine how shocking your wife's revelation must have been for you. That she is ambivalent about your marriage must be deeply painful because you are being treated like a yo-yo.

The book "The Other Side of the Closet," by Amity Pierce Buxton, Ph.D., has been mentioned before in my column and has proven helpful to others in your situation. There is also a support group called the Straight Spouse Network (www.straightspouse.org), which offers emotional support after a wife or a husband comes out as yours did. Please don't wait to read the book and visit the website. I think you will find them comforting.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a large family consisting of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Looking through my photo albums, I can't complain that I don't have enough photos of my children, but it's a parade of tongues.

Their mothers all post photos on social media with their tongues hanging out. The children then mimic their moms and their photos are disgusting as well. I would love to have photos of my children minus the slimy organ.

Is this accepted behavior in our society now? Please, can someone enlighten me as to the inspiration of this repulsive action?

CLOSED-MOUTHED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CLOSED-MOUTHED: I suspect it originated back in the 1970s when Gene Simmons of Kiss licked his way to the top of the music charts. Lately, Miley Cyrus took up the torch and is keeping it burning brightly. Children often stick out their tongues when they are forced to have their picture taken or are trying to be funny, but I don't think Gene and Miley fall into that category. Quite the opposite, in fact.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Sometimes I'll call a close friend or business associate for lunch with the goal of having a quality one-on-one conversation on a wide range of topics. After the lunch is set, more than one of them has then invited other people I know, but with whom I do not have the same quality relationship. It is not a pleasant surprise.

I find it irritating, because it invariably changes the dynamic of the conversation. I never say anything about it, but it bothers me. Is my reaction reasonable, or should I just roll with this?

THWARTED IN DALLAS

DEAR THWARTED: Your reaction is perfectly reasonable. The first time it happened, you should have shared your feelings with the person who did it. It has happened again because you didn't speak up. Now you will have to warn the person you're inviting in advance.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

UH-OH, HERE COMES MOE, THE CLASS BULLY!
Okay twinky, let's have that ball.
SURE, MOE. ALL YOURS
NEVER ARGUE WITH A SIX-YEAR-OLD WHO SHAVES.
WATTERSON
1-28

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THIS PIECE IS CALLED "ALIEN WITH RUNNY NOSE."
FASCINATING.
WHAT DID YOU USE TO CREATE THE...UM... RUNNINESS?
GREEN FOOD DYE AND RUBBER CEMENT.
WELL, IT'S WONDERFUL. ABSOLUTELY STOMACH-TURNING.
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT. I'M BRANCHING OUT INTO SOME EDGIER MATERIAL.
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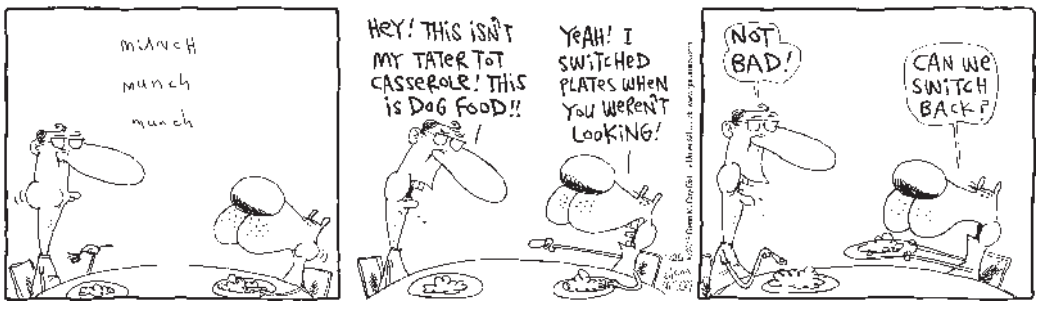
1-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


munch munch munch
HEY! THIS ISN'T MY TATER TOT CASSEROLE! THIS is DOG FOOD!!
YEAH! I SWITCHED PLATES WHEN YOU WEREN'T LOOKING!
NOT BAD!
CAN WE SWITCH BACK?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Romantic night out
5 Biden and Torre
9 Keystone lawman
12 Sale sign
13 Pizza cooker
14 Clean air org.
15 Soda fountain drink
17 Dig in
18 Country
19 Cider fruit
21 Sinatra's "— Way"
22 Gold-loving king
24 Roughly
27 Ghostly cry
28 Lord's mate
31 Propel a shell
32 Hogwash
33 Green parrot
34 Heart rhythm
36 Ore. neighbor
37 Dorm room piece
38 Peachy keen
40 Santa —, N.M.
41 Rude observer
43 Not often
47 Goat's plaint
48 Accepting bribes
51 Caribou kin
52 Mentor
53 Rat- —
54 Dundee dissent
55 Flabbergast
56 Utters

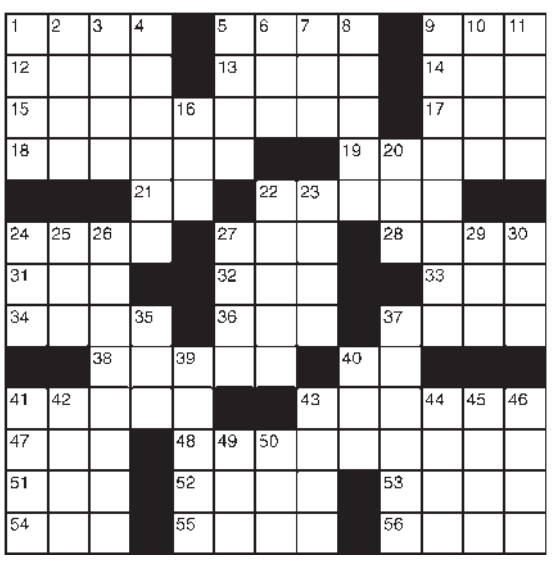
DOWN

1 "— Yankees"
2 Where Laos is
3 Lean to one side
4 Nanook, for one
5 Mr. Hancock
6 Lab eggs
7 "A rat!"
8 Golf legend Sam
9 Memento
10 Milky gem
11 Liver spread
16 Asian sauce
20 Chum
22 Not even-tempered
23 Itty bit
24 Globe
25 Fish eggs
26 Famed Tchaikovsky ballet
27 Lad from Leeds
29 — Moines
30 Talk idly
35 Cravat
37 River mouth landforms
39 Pond croakers
40 Banking charge
41 Portent
42 Ritzy party
43 Ostracize
44 Stats and stuff
45 Approve
46 NYC baseball team
49 Fanatic
50 Capote nickname

Solution time: 25 mins.

	A	M	P		G	A	R		S	H	I	P
A	L	A	I		C	O	C		W	A	G	F
W	A	T	C	H	D	O	G		F	T	O	N
S	N	A	K	E	S		E	J	E	C	T	S
			S	E	E		R	O	T	H		
D	O	M		D	N	A		I	I	E	H	S
A	S	A	P		D	H	Y		E	I	U	I
M	E	T	A	L		M	A	E		S	E	T
		C	L	E	O		C	R	A			
Y	A	H	O	O	S		H	I	C	C	U	P
O	L	I	D		C	A	T	C	H	A	L	L
W	I	N	K		A	G	E		E	S	A	U
S	A	G	A		R	O	D		S	A	N	G

Yesterday's answer 1-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariel Winter, 18; Elijah Wood, 35; Sarah McLachlan, 48; Frank Darabont, 57.

Happy Birthday: Collaborating with talented individuals will ensure that you are successful this year. Check out what others have to offer and pull together a team that will help you reach your goals. You can get ahead personally and professionally if you are persistent and pay close attention to detail. Good fortune will be yours if you are willing to be a team player. Your numbers are 6, 15, 21, 28, 33, 38, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep plugging away until you reach your destination. Don't let other interfere or make you feel inadequate. Trust in your abilities and use your skills to do what you do best. Don't let your emotions take over. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You've got the edge and the control to make things happen if you focus on doing your own thing. Discuss your ideas and expand your plans until you have everything covered. Leave time to celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Rely on past experiences to lead you in the right direction. Don't trust anyone to take care of your affairs or do a job for you. Good things will happen if you take responsibility and handle matters yourself. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let anyone sway you in one direction or another. Make your own choices, even if it is emotionally difficult. Once you make a decision, you will know exactly what to do in order to keep things moving along efficiently. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Discuss your intentions and negotiate a way to ensure that everyone involved in your plan is content. Once you set the pace, it won't take long to deliver your message and get results. Speak from the heart and you'll get a good response. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be a participant. Get involved in events and activities that will broaden your outlook or challenge you physically. Hold off if someone wants you to get involved in a joint venture. Stick to sound investments. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Back away from anyone putting demands or pressures on you. Make up your mind and stick to your decision. It's important to let others know that you aren't a chameleon. You can't keep the peace by continually giving in. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can make remarkable contributions to your community. What you have to offer will surprise others and position you for advancement. Don't let an old friend take advantage of you. Call the shots and say "no" if someone steps out of line. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your emotions may be difficult to deal with. Don't overreact if you are faced with a situation that isn't going well. Look for alternate ways to make the most of what you have. Stick close to home. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Engage in talks and listen to proposals. There are good deals waiting for you. A personal relationship will take a turn. Cut costs by being realistic about the way you want to move forward. A commitment can be made. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Pace yourself and stick to what you know you can do. Don't get involved in someone else's plans. Try to follow your own path so that you can make the appropriate changes as you advance. Trust in the choices you make. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Use emotional persuasion to get what you want. Your tactful way of getting others to see things your way will bring you recognition and a prominent position. Romance is on the rise. Make special plans for two. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, astute and proactive. You are helpful and conscientious.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3			6	
4		3	5			9		
	8			1			2	
							9	
3		5				8		7
	2							
	9			7			1	
		1			4	6		2
	7			5				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	8	7	6	4	2	3	1
6	4	1	9	3	2	7	5	8
3	7	2	1	5	8	6	9	4
7	6	4	5	1	9	3	8	2
1	3	5	2	8	6	9	4	7
2	8	9	4	7	3	5	1	6
5	9	7	6	4	1	8	2	3
4	2	3	8	9	7	1	6	5
8	1	6	3	2	5	4	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/27

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

JAPANESE PONZU Solution: 5 letters

D	M	U	S	O	B	A	K	S	I	H	W	D	S	S
T	E	E	W	S	Y	T	I	D	I	C	A	I	U	G
S	A	L	T	D	E	S	U	F	N	I	T	P	D	N
D	E	N	O	S	A	E	S	I	D	E	E	P	A	I
U	K	Y	R	O	V	A	S	A	M	R	R	I	C	L
B	A	L	A	N	C	E	I	P	M	I	Y	N	H	P
A	M	T	U	N	A	E	U	A	K	S	H	G	I	M
H	T	H	I	N	C	R	R	A	E	D	S	S	L	U
S	U	R	I	U	A	K	T	L	E	U	S	E	A	D
U	R	Z	A	R	E	A	D	E	R	E	M	M	I	S
B	Y	S	U	T	T	O	W	T	A	O	L	I	M	E
A	I	O	A	Y	O	A	I	F	N	R	I	C	E	K
H	S	N	H	N	E	C	O	R	A	N	G	E	A	A
S	G	Y	O	S	N	O	G	N	I	P	P	O	T	L
Y	I	H	S	A	D	G	N	I	R	O	V	A	L	F

©2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/28

Acidity, Balance, Citrus, Cooled, Daidai, Dashi, Dipping, Dumplings, Flakes, Flavoring, Infused, Kabosu, Lemon, Lime, Make, Meat, Noodles, Orange, Rice, Salt, Sashimi, Sauce, Savory, Seafood, Seasoned, Seaweed, Shabu-shabu, Shoyu, Simmered, Sour, Soy, Sudachi, Supermarket, Sweet, Tangy, Tart, Tataki, Tempura, Thin, Topping, Tuna, Watery, Whisk, Yuzu

Yesterday's Answer: Campaigns

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Paralegal/ Legal Assistant. 5 Years experience. Must have own transportation. Email resume to sammoklawoffice@gmail.com. Contact Kimberly at (670) 234-2033 for further information.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Business Consultant (Interpreter)
Salary $1,800.00 per month
Minimum of 5 years experience.
Must be able to interpret and translate for both Japanese and English
Interested applicants please send resume to martingd28@yahoo.co.jp
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant

Restaurant Waitress (3): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time. We prefer full time applicants.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3 months experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant (MISA Bldg. 1) in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN
Qualifications: Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) years of experience. Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than February 04, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

G4S

Job Vacancy Announcement

(30) Security Officer

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification at G4S Office located at Beach Road Ladera Building, Chalan Lau-lau.
For more information call (670) 233-3238/39 or email at cnmi@gu.g4s.com
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunnova

Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest growing industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.

The Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician will install residential grid-tied and off grid Solar PV systems. In this position, the PV Installer will provide support to the crew lead of the installation team, communicate job status data to the operations management, and ensure the completion of installation of all solar arrays/systems.

Key Responsibilities
- Pulling inventory for each installation job
- Pre-assemble job components in the warehouse
- Layout and assembly of solar modules / array and mounting hardware
- Mechanical/structural mounting of racking, modules and electrical equipment
- Electrical wiring of solar array/system (AC and DC)

Qualifications
- 1 year of roof work, general construction, or electrical required. Previous solar experience strongly preferred.
- Must be able to lift 50lbs, ability to work in extreme environments (example: heat, sun, etc)
- Must be willing and able to climb ladders, stairs, work on rooftops and able to work on your feet for long periods of time
- Basic computer skills including familiarity with Microsoft Office programs
- High school diploma or GED required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and clean driving record

Email resumes to Lara at lozaki@micronesiarenewableenergy.com or mail to P.O. Box 7810 Tamuning, Guam 96931

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Solar Energy Contracts Administrator

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest growing industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.

The Solar Energy Contracts Administrator will work in conjunction with our operations and sales group. This individual will be responsible for the permitting, interconnection and administrative process of all residential solar systems installations.

Key Responsibilities
- Supervise the entire project flow process from the initial contract signing through the construction of the project
- Supervise the paperwork and permitting process of various residential solar installations
- Produce and submit documentation such as permits, and interconnection agreements

Qualifications
- Have strong project contracts administrative experience
- 1 to 3 years of construction administration experience
- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Must be self-motivated and goal orientated
- Completely tech savvy including experience in CRM programs, and Microsoft Office.
- A self-starter, able to work with limited supervision.

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MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
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Energy Solution Advisor (Full-time and Part-time)

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest growing industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.

The Energy Solution Advisor will be responsible for identifying potential customers, answering their questions, and arranging customer consultations in their homes showing the customer how they can become part of the solution of cleaning our planet up while saving money on energy and have more of that income in their pocket and not the utilities pocket.

Key Responsibilities
- Speaking with customers about Micronesia Renewable Energy and our partner SUNNOVA's clean energy solutions
- Driving the creation of leads to meet personal and team sales goals
- Collaborating with Outside Solar Sales Consultants to confirm in-home appointments
- Setting up Micronesia Renewable Energy displays and collateral
- Hosting and conducting seminars and events for 20 or more people

Qualifications
- 2 years prior experience in a quota-driven sales
- Prior experience generating customer leads
- Proficient with Excel and MS Outlook (+CRM tool preferred)
- Slightly obsessive about providing a great customer experience, in all the right ways
- High energy, even higher integrity
- Articulate with excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Must be flexible working weekend, evening and holidays
- Min 18 years of age with a high school degree, recent college grads preferred
- Must have a valid state driver's license and clean driving record
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving, and drug screen

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NFL conducting comprehensive probe on Manning

DENVER -- The NFL says it is conducting a comprehensive review of allegations that Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning had human growth hormone delivered to his house.

There's no timetable to complete the investigation, but it's not expected before the Denver plays Carolina in the Super Bowl on Feb. 7.

League spokesman Brian McCarthy says the inquiry, which began weeks ago, involves reviews of records, interviews and coordination with other agencies.

Al Jazeera reported last month that an intern at an Indianapolis anti-aging clinic was secretly recorded suggesting that Manning's wife received deliveries of HGH, which is banned by the league. Manning, then with the Colts, was rehabbing from shoulder surgeries.

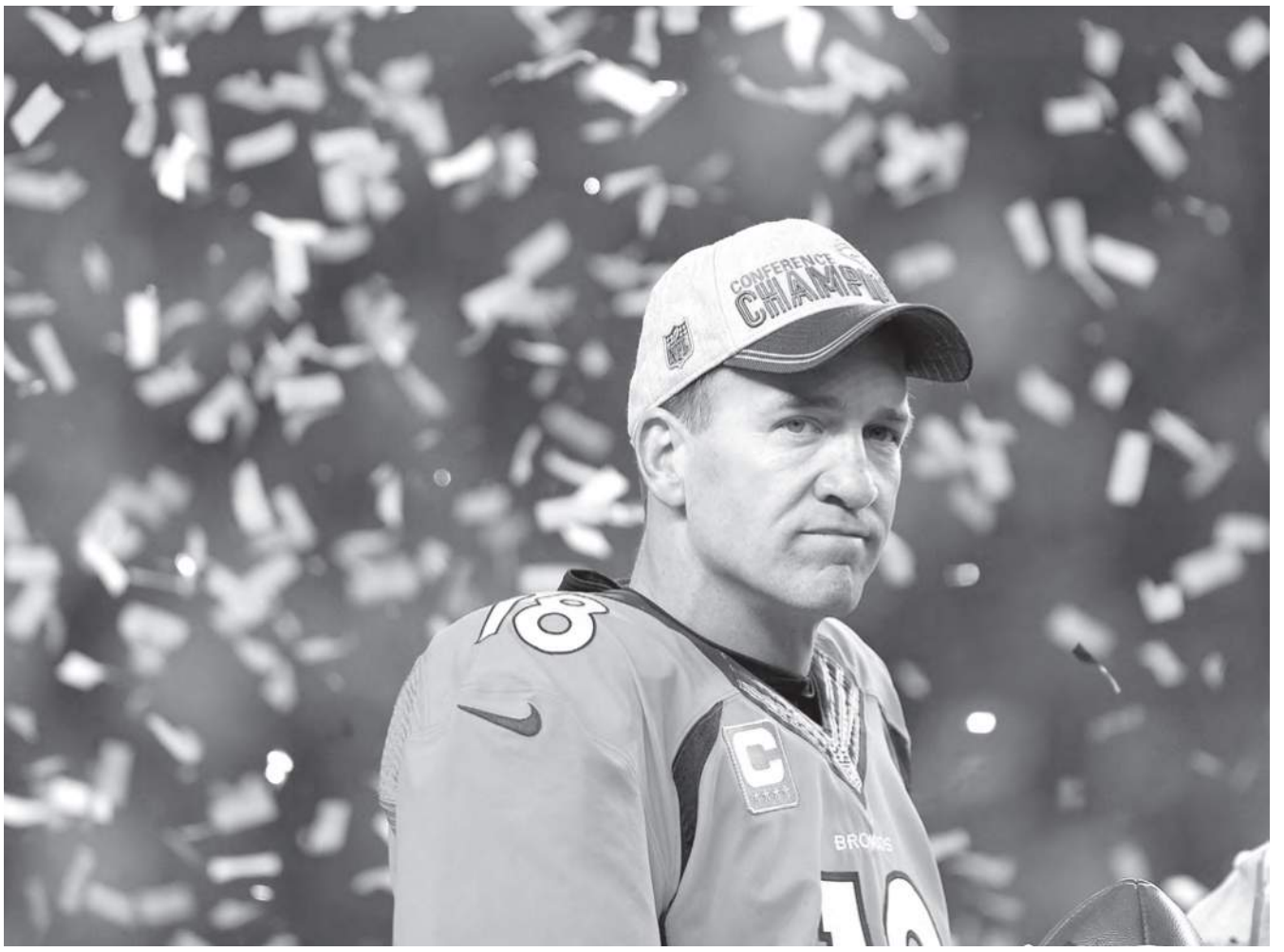
The intern, Charles Sly, has since recanted his story.

Manning angrily denied using performance-enhancing substances and called the report "complete garbage."

Meanwhile, Manning isn't saying that Super Bowl 50 is his grand finale.

He's just saying it could be.

NFL Network cameras caught an intriguing exchange between Manning and New England coach Bill Belichick after Denver's 20-18 win over the Patriots in the AFC championship game on Sunday.



AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning watches the AFC championship trophy presentation following the NFL football AFC Championship game between the Denver Broncos and the New England Patriots, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016, in Denver.

When they embraced, Manning leaned in and told Belichick, "Hey listen, this might be my last rodeo. So, it sure has been a pleasure."

Belichick responded, "You're a great competitor ..."

Neither spoke of their exchange afterward.

Earlier this month, Manning said, "I'd be lying if I said I'm not thinking about that," when asked if this could be it for him.

The five-time MVP's season ends Feb. 7 in the Super Bowl against Carolina.

There are other signs that Manning is preparing as if he could ride into retirement next month.

He let his little boy stand beside him during his news conference after the AFC championship, just as he had taken him to the sideline before one of the games he missed in December.

These are things the manically focused Manning never had done before.

Long after the delirious crowd disappeared Sunday night, Manning walked through the north end zone at Sports Authority Field with his family, picked up pieces of thin blue and orange confetti and took in the scene, including the giant scoreboard in the south end zone that read, "Next Game: Super Bowl 50."

Pushing 40, Manning will be the oldest quarterback to start a Super Bowl when he takes the field for his 293rd career game, including 27 postseason appearances.

It's a chance for Manning to cap his most maddening season by becoming the first starting QB to win Lombardi Trophies for two different teams.

No. 18's 18th NFL season was his most trying. It included a rash of injuries and insults and saw him serve as a scout team quarterback for the first time ever and a backup QB for the first time since his freshman year at Tennessee.

Bothered by a left foot injury, Manning threw just nine TD passes and 17 interceptions in nine starts, but he was 7-2 in those games, one of the losses coming against Kansas City on Nov. 15 when he left the game injured.

He missed the next seven starts but won his starting job back from Brock Osweiler on Jan. 3 when he entered in the third quarter against San Diego and ignited a stagnant, mistake-prone offense.

Manning led four scoring drives and the Broncos' 27-20 win earned them the AFC's No. 1 seed.

Manning was methodical in a 23-16 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers in the divisional round and he threw two TD passes to tight end Owen Daniels while dethroning the defending champions Sunday.

It was Manning's third win in four conference championship games against his rival, Tom Brady, who is 10-3 against Manning in the regular season in the most storied quarterback rivalry in NFL history.

Panthers not content being in Super Bowl, want to win it all

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Carolina coach Ron Rivera remembers turning to Dave Gettleman following a training camp practice this summer, and asking the Panthers general manager, "Am I seeing what I think I'm seeing?"

Rivera wanted verification that this Panthers team was clearly the most talented he's coached in five seasons —one he thought had Super Bowl potential.

Well, turns out Rivera was right.

And now that the Panthers have realized those expectations, the fifth-year coach believes they're capable of bringing home the organization's first Vince Lombardi trophy.

"The thing we've got to remember is what we're playing for, and that's to win it," Rivera said Monday. "It's not about getting there. It's not about being a part of it. It's about winning it. And that will be our main focus."

Said quarterback Cam Newton: "We're not finished."

Rivera, who won a Super Bowl ring with the 1985 Chicago Bears as a linebacker, said he'll rely on his former coach Mike Ditka, among others, for advice leading up the Feb. 7 Super Bowl against the AFC champion Denver Broncos.

"One of the things coach Ditka emphasized to us was to enjoy the moment," Rivera said. "The moment doesn't come very often. It's hard. It's hard to get to where we are right now."

The Panthers have remained a loose, confident team throughout the season.

They're also a tightknit group, regularly hanging out off the field together, and seem to thrive playing the underdog role -- even though they opened as a 4-point favorite against Peyton Manning and the Broncos.

That harkens back to when some believed Carolina was the worst of the 5-0 teams in October.

The Panthers would prove doubters wrong, winning 14 straight games to open the season before suffering their only loss at Atlanta. They finished the season as the No. 1 scoring offense in the league and led the NFL on defense in takeaways.

They're rebounded from that Atlanta loss to win three straight, including home playoff games against the Seattle Seahawks and Arizona Cardinals.

"We've been doubted. We've been slated; all of the above, but yet when you have turnouts like (Sunday) it makes it all worthwhile," Newton said after the win against the Cardinals.

Added wide receiver Jerricho Cotchery: "Everyone can try to find something when they doubt us, but we just try to go out there and put our ball on display."

Rivera has said he loves his team's personality -- and doesn't want players to change.

He doesn't mind Newton's touchdown celebrations, his players posing for pictures on the sideline when the game is in hand or even lip-syncing to Drake's lyrics, "We got a really big team; we need some really big rings" in a video they've posted on social media.

"We are who we are," Rivera said.

Right now, what the Panthers are is a championship team looking for the franchise's first Super Bowl.

Rivera doesn't plan to change a thing.

"Do what you've done," Rivera said. "Some of my experiences in coaching, you get to certain experiences like the playoffs, and sometimes you get a little bit of panic. Am I doing enough? Should I do more? Should I change this?

"I told our coordinators, `We're going to stick to what got us to where we are.' We'll emphasize that to the players and make sure we keep our personality."

SIDEBAR

Broncos heap praise on Panthers

ENGLEWOOD, Colorado (AP)—Nothing but compliments for Cam Newton after completely bashing Tom Brady.

And no, this nasty Denver Broncos defense hasn't suddenly turned soft. They're simply playing nice with the Super Bowl still two weeks away.

The pleasantries seem tame after all the trash talking Denver did before the New England game. The Broncos called Brady a crybaby for complaining to the officials over calls. They also accused tight end Rob Gronkowski of constantly pushing off to get open.

On Sunday, they backed up their words by constantly harassing Brady in a 20-18 win over the Patriots to earn a spot in Super Bowl 50 against Carolina (17-1).

Now, the Broncos (14-4) are pulling out the respect card, especially when it comes to Newton.

"He's probably the most dangerous quarterback in the NFL right now," Pro Bowl cornerback Aqib Talib said.

Outside linebacker DeMarcus Ware heaped plenty of praise on Newton, too.

"You can't rush timid because if you do that, he's one of those pocket quarterbacks that can get the ball deep down the field," said Ware, whose team will wear their white road uniforms on Feb. 7 in their record-tying eighth Super Bowl appearance. "You have to be able to get pressure on him, but you have to be decisive on how you're rushing. You can't be a wild rusher."

The Broncos certainly went wild against Brady, hitting him 23 times, all the more amazing given how quickly Brady usually gets rid of the ball.

Nowitzki's late jumper propels Mavs past Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki hit the tiebreaking jumper with 2.1 seconds to play, and the Dallas Mavericks hung on for a 92-90 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

Nowitzki scored eight of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks snapped a two-game skid with their 10th consecutive victory over the Lakers.

Julius Randle missed a long jumper at the buzzer for the Lakers, who have lost seven straight.

Nowitzki nailed his go-ahead shot while falling toward the Lakers' bench, where he got a pat on the back from Kobe Bryant, who sat out to rest his sore right shoulder.

J.J. Barea led the Mavericks with 18 points, and Chandler Parsons had 17.

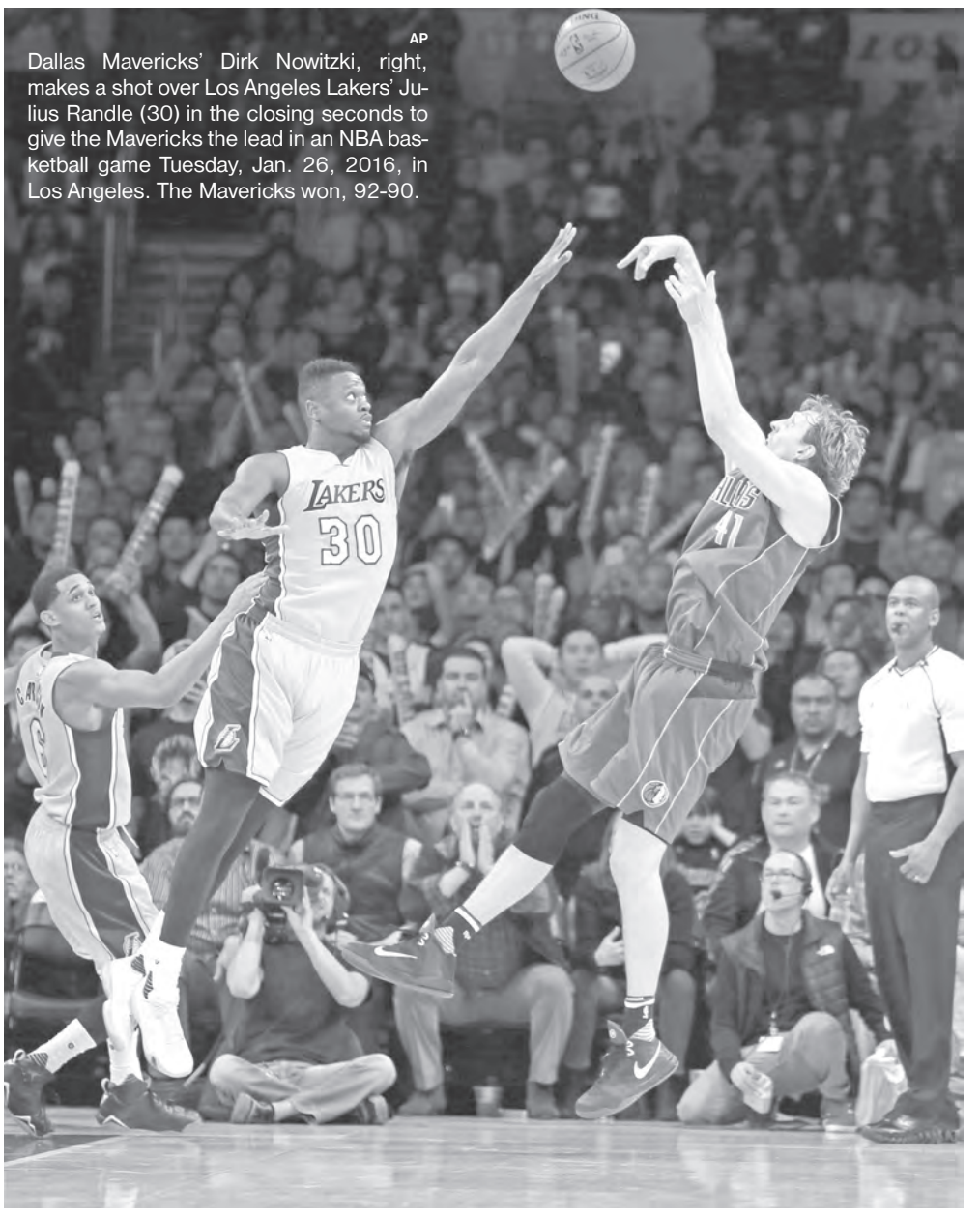
Jordan Clarkson scored 18 points for the Lakers, and Randle had 16.

The injury prevented Bryant from facing Nowitzki for the 50th and final time in the careers of the NBA's top two active scorers. Nowitzki is two months older than the 37-year-old Bryant, and the German 7-footer entered the NBA in 1998, two years after Bryant's debut.

Nowitzki struggled with foul trouble while Bryant watched from the Lakers' bench after removing Larry Nance Jr. from his seat and telling the rookie to grab some floor.

The teams traded the lead throughout an exciting fourth quarter, with veteran Dallas struggling to put away the Lakers' young lineup.

Nowitzki put the Mavericks ahead on a jumper with 2:31 to play, but Clarkson tied it moments later. Both teams missed open shots before Lou Williams was called for an offensive foul with 13.5 seconds left, setting the stage for Nowitzki's latest big shot against the Lakers.



AP

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki, right, makes a shot over Los Angeles Lakers' Julius Randle (30) in the closing seconds to give the Mavericks the lead in an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016, in Los Angeles. The Mavericks won, 92-90.

Sixers 113, Suns 103

In Philadelphia, Ish Smith had 20 points and nine assists and Robert Covington scored 19 points to lead the 76ers to a 113-103 win over the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

Once 1-30 on Dec. 23 and challenging for the worst record in NBA history, the Sixers have since gone 6-9 and might not even end up with the worst record in the league.

Nik Stauskas scored 15 points and Nerlens Noel had 14 for the Sixers.

Archie Goodwin nearly pulled off an improbable win in the fourth with some late clutch shots that rallied the Suns.

Raptors 106, Wizards 89

In Toronto, All-Star starter Kyle Lowry put up 29 points before leaving with an injury in the final minutes and Toronto downed Washington for its ninth straight win, matching a franchise-best mark.

Lowry left and went up the tunnel toward the Raptors locker room with what appeared to be an injured hand with just under four minutes to go in the fourth quarter. He briefly returned before trainers escorted him back under the stands.

Jonas Valanciunas had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Raptors.

Thunder 128, Knicks 122, OT

In New York, Kevin Durant scored a season-high 44 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Oklahoma City beat New York in overtime.

Durant hit the tying jumper with 16.2 seconds left in regulation, then scored seven points in overtime to surpass the 43 points he had against Orlando on Oct. 30, a game that went to two overtimes.

One was all the Thunder needed this time, as Durant hit four straight free throws in the final half-minute to finish 16 for 18 from the line.

Russell Westbrook finished with 30 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Thunder.

Clippers 91, Pacers 89

In Indianapolis, Chris Paul scored 26 points and J.J. Redick added 19 as Los Angeles held off a late Indiana comeback.

The Clippers played without All-Star forward Blake Griffin, who was sent home after breaking his shooting hand in a scuffle with equipment manager Matias Testi.

Indiana lost its third straight despite having Paul George finish with 31 points and 11 rebounds. Myles Turner had 16 points.

Los Angeles turned the game with a 13-0 run that gave the Clippers an 81-72 lead midway through the fourth quarter.

Heat 102, Nets 98

In New York, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh each scored 27 points, leading Miami over Brooklyn.

Wade also had eight assists and four rebounds. Justise Winslow added 13 points and seven rebounds for the Heat.

Andrea Bargnani had 20 points and Joe Johnson had 15 for the Nets.

The Heat led 99-96 when Wayne Ellington missed a 3-point shot that would've tied it.

Bucks 107, Magic 100

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo dunked eight times and scored 25 points as Milwaukee, with coach Jason Kidd back on the bench, sent Orlando to its seventh straight loss.

Kidd missed 17 games after having surgery on his right hip Dec. 21. In his return, he spent a lot of time walking along the sideline as Milwaukee rallied from a 16-point deficit.

Jerryd Bayless had a pair of 3-pointers in the final 2:20, including a baseline shot with 13 seconds to go that put Milwaukee ahead 103-99.

Blake Griffin out for 4-to-6 weeks after breaking hand

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Blake Griffin is expected to miss four to six weeks with a broken shooting hand after punching a Los Angeles Clippers staff member during a road trip.

The star forward underwent a procedure and was treated by an orthopedic surgeon after returning early to Los Angeles from the five-game trip, the team said Tuesday. He has a spiral fracture of the fourth metacarpal in his right hand.

A person with knowledge of the incident said Griffin and equipment manager Matias Testi got into an argument during a dinner that escalated. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Clippers had not confirmed those details publicly. Testi had multiple facial injuries.

About 90 minutes before Tuesday night's game at Indiana, coach Doc Rivers said he had spoken with Griffin. Rivers made it clear he wasn't happy with the situation.

"I'm not satisfied," Rivers said. "I'm not satisfied with anything. I'm talking about a non-basketball issue right now, so I'm not satisfied with anything."

While Rivers didn't shed much light on what led to the initial argument last Saturday in Toronto, he did acknowledge punishment is likely. He did not elaborate on what it might be.

Instead, Rivers said, he will wait for the team, with help from league officials, to complete an investigation.

Testi and Griffin appear in many photographs that have been making the rounds on social media, and Rivers confirmed Griffin and the equipment manager had a friendly relationship. He also said he did not believe alcohol had anything to do with the incident.

"It happened, but it shouldn't happen. They were good friends," Rivers said. "It's frustrating. You don't want it to happen to anyone. You don't want it to happen during the season. You don't want it to happen after the season."

Clippers players declined to comment when the locker room was open for pregame availability.

Spurs-Warriors matchup sets NBA TV viewing record

NEW YORK (AP)—Golden State's victory over San Antonio in a showdown of the league's top teams was the most-watched telecast ever on NBA TV.

The network says the game averaged 1.4 million viewers Monday night, peaking at 1.7 million viewers between 11:15-11:30 p.m. EST.

The previous most-viewed telecast was Game 6 of a 2014 first-round series between Indiana and Atlanta that averaged 1.1 million viewers.

The Warriors beat the Spurs 120-90 to run their record to 41-4. The Spurs are 38-7.

With Cleveland beating Minnesota in the first game of NBA TV's doubleheader, the network said Tuesday it set records for total day audience and extended prime-time viewership.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Lakers coach Byron Scott claims he didn't post a comment on his Instagram account apparently threatening to fight a fan.

Before the Lakers faced Dallas on Tuesday night, Scott said he doesn't know who wrote the comment on the since-deleted post, which showed the coach working out at a boxing gym.

When a commenter made several comments to Scott appearing to challenge him to a fight, someone logged in as Scott told the commenter to "Bring it ... and show your face, don't hide."

Scott pleaded ignorance, saying he only learned of the Instagram kerfuffle from his assistant. When asked if his account had been hacked, the 54-year-old former Lakers guard leaned on his oft-discussed lack of interest in modern technology.

"I don't deal with that electronics stuff," Scott said. "The technology today, I'm not real up on, but I guess I'll ask them a little bit more what's going on with my Instagram and Facebook and all that other stuff."

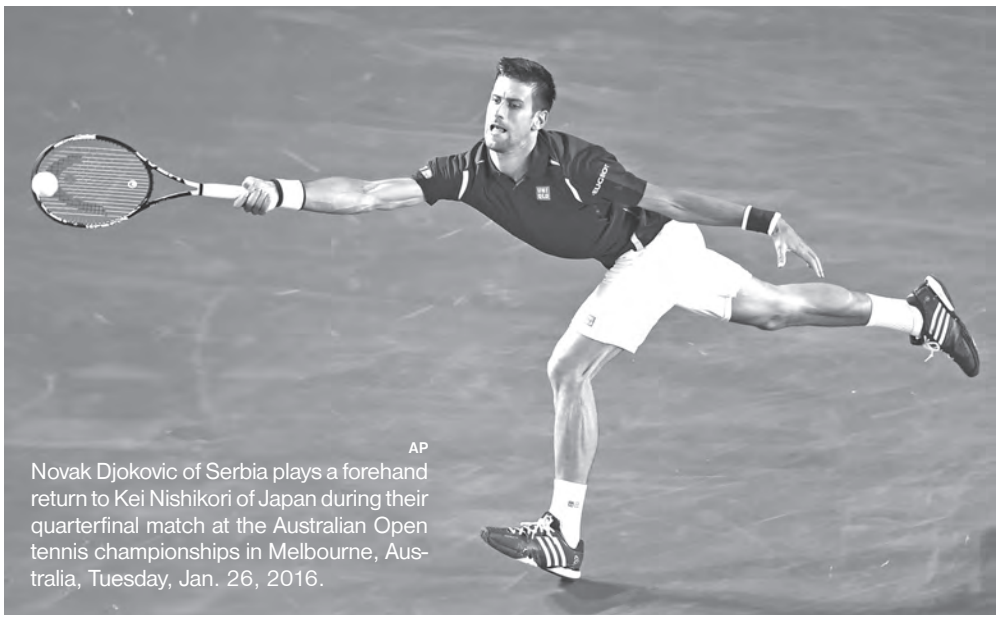
Scott said he doesn't know his social media passwords and rarely uses the accounts himself, instead relying on his employees to run the show.

Scott insisted he doesn't know whether his account was hacked, or whether an employee posted the comments. Earlier Tuesday, someone posted a message on Scott's account saying someone "got my password to respond back to a fan as if it were me."

The affair appeared to provide a rare moment of levity for the coach, whose Lakers began the night with the Western Conference's worst record at 9-37.

"I got a good kick out of it, though," Scott said. "When I got to read it, I said, `It kind of sounds like me.' Somebody talking about doing something, `Yeah, come on over here.' I've got to ask my guys what's going on. He told me today, `The problem is solved,' whatever that means."

Federer vs Djokovic in Australian Open semis



AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a forehand return to Kei Nishikori of Japan during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic has a larger than life presence at the Australian Open.

His face smiles at fans from sponsor's billboards. His voice gives inspirational advice over center-court speakers between matches.

There's even a new addition to Melbourne Park called ''Novak's World,'' where fans can slip on virtual reality goggles and feel as if they're walking in Djokovic's shoes —as he stretches in the locker room and then walks out onto the court as the crowd roars.

A few years ago, the Australian Open and the other majors could have been called "Roger's World,"when Roger Federer was No. 1, still dominating men's tennis and the favorite face of sponsors.

On Thursday, the two players' worlds collide. Again.

The top-ranked Djokovic will play No. 3 Federer in a blockbuster semifinal match at the Australian Open. It will be the 45th installment in a rivet-ing rivalry that is so equally split that they are tied with 22 wins each.

It's a rematch of last year's final at the U.S. Open and Wimbledon, both of which Djokovic won in thrilling nail-biters.

It will be their 15th matchup at a Grand Slam tournament, more than any other pair of men in tennis' Open era, which dates to 1968. Djokovic and Rafael Nadal have played each other 13 times at majors, Federer and Nadal 11 and John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl 10.

But more than just numbers, it is a tantalizing rematch that holds great importance to both players as they try to cement their place in history.

For Federer, who owns a record 17 Grand Slam titles, it offers a chance to prove that his best is not entirely behind him. He is 34, which means that time really is running out.

"It would mean a lot to me, no doubt about it," Federer said Tuesday when asked about the significance of winning one more major in the era of Djokovic. "It's part of the reason why I guess I'm still playing. I feel like I'm competitive at the top. I can beat all the guys on tour."

That is true, but the problem for Federer has been making it happen in the last round of a major.

Federer hasn't won a major since Wimbledon in 2012 despite repeatedly coming close. He was runner-up in 2014 at Wimbledon and in 2015 at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open - beaten all three times by Djokovic.

The 28-year-old Djokovic finished 2015 as the No. 1 player for the fourth time in five years. The Serb won three Grand Slams - the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open - and reached the final at the French Open.

Djokovic is considered the best baseliner in the game, contorting his body as he stretches and slides between defense and offense.

In Melbourne, Federer has been playing a brilliant brand of attacking tennis, ushering him comfortably through the draw and past No. 6 Tomas Berdych 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-4.

Local golf groups to form federation

Representatives from several local golf associations recently met to discuss the formation of NMI Golf Federation.

Once formed, the federation will serve as the umbrella organization of member golf associations. The federation also aims to establish rules and guidelines for international competitions and handicap. Other goals of the federation are: to be the voice of its members; raise funds to support its activities; and form a collegial relationship to help improve the sport through training its members and encouraging those who want to pursue golf.

A meeting to finalize the charter of the federation is scheduled on Feb. 2 at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. All chartered golf associations are invited to attend. For more information, contact Tony Rogolifoi at 234-6672 or 285-3966. ***(PR)***

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to 15; 16 to 29, women's 30 to 44; men's 30 to 39; men's 50-and-above, and women's 45-an- above. The OC6 races are for men's and women's open and junior teams.

The finals of the four race categories will run from 1:15pm to 4:45pm and will follow the same order. An awards banquet will be held from 5pm to 7pm. The Top 3 finishers in each division in SUP and outrigger canoe races will receive medals, while all participants are entitled to raffle prizes that were donated by the generous sponsors of "Timmy Would Go."

"Timmy Would Go" will be held in memory of Timothy Lee Salas Wesley Jr., who was also called "Timmy Boy". He died on Jan. 3, 2015 as he tried to rescue two young girls from drowning in the waters at Forbidden Island.

"Timmy was a hero, an avid ocean sports enthusiast, and a passionate paddler," Merissa said.

She added that "Timmy Would Go" is taken in part from the phrase "Eddie Would Go." Eddie is Eddie Aikau of Hawaii, a well-known lifeguard and surfer who also lost his life trying to save others from rough waters.

The Rasas are encouraging members of the community to support and watch the races.

"There will be live music and food for attendees and public awareness outreach from our sponsors. Proceeds from this event will be used to promote ocean awareness and water safety as well," Merissa said.

Nearly 50 individuals and companies are supporting this weekend's tournament.

2021

From Page 28

Once the facilities are in place, the second step is to have the government provide sufficient funds for the regular maintenance of these sports venues.

At present, Northern Marianas Sports Association is the designated caretaker of the main sports hub in the CNMI—the Oleai Sports Complex—and the group has been getting funding for its operation from the government in the last two or three years. However, NMSA is also seeking grants from federal agencies for repair works at the facilities, especially after Typhoon Soudelor hit the island in August last year.

While the first two factors are focusing on sports facilities, Tan said the third is about the CNMI athletes.

"Again, the role of the government here is crucial. The government should be supportive in providing technical training to our athletes by helping federations hire professional coaches or those who are experts in their respective sports," the committee chair said.

Right now, CNMI athletes are trained mostly by former athletes and teachers and though there are qualified local coaches, these mentors still need upgrade to keep up with their counterparts in the regions (Micronesian and Pacific). Some sports federation, like soccer and tennis, are lucky enough to attend training sessions under pro coaches.

Tan recognized that funding will be the main issue in finding and training professional coaches and building facilities, but the CNMI may take a cue from New Zealand and Australia to survive this challenge.

New Zealand and Australia sports are represented in their respective governments as they either have a ministry or agency solely focusing on sports and getting adequate funding from the government. The Land Down Under has the Australian Sports Commission, which distribute funds and provides strategic guidance and leadership for all sporting activities in the country. The Kiwis, on the other hand, has Sports NZ, which is under the Minister for Sport and Recreation and has the same function as its counterpart in Australia.

"Australia and New Zealand institutionalized their sports with their officials named to cabinet positions and they push and lobby to get sufficient funding from the government and the private sector," Tan said.

The CNMI used to have the Division of Sports and Recreation under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs before the former was dissolved in 2013 and NMSA took over the operation of the Oleai Sports Complex. A DSR head was appointed by the government, while NMSA's executive director (Tony Rogolifoi) was approved by the group's board. Rogolifoi and his staff are mostly focused on the maintenance of the complex, while other NMSA officials/members have days jobs and volunteer in their respective federations.

"I think it's high time that the CNMI have a sports minister or a cabinet member who will look into the overall development of sports in the Commonwealth. The designated person will work with the government and the private sector to ensure that all athletes, coaches, and officials will get the help and resources they need to become more competitive in their respective sports. He or she will also look into the availability of facilities to train our elite athletes and provide venue to those who want to stay active by playing sports," Tan said.

When the four mentioned factors are considered, Tan believes CNMI athletes and officials will be more competent and a lot of people, especially the youth, will be involved in sports.

"When more people come to learn a specific sport and train, we will have a big pool of athletes, who one day will give honor to the CNMI. If we have a lot of people getting involved in sports and becoming active, we are looking at having a healthier community," said Tan, who is alarmed at the number of lives lost and higher medical cost due to sedentary lifestyle.

"We have to look at the bigger picture and reevaluate what will happen after the Games are done. Let us not just focus on hosting a good Mini Games. Let's have a new vision for CNMI sports and do this for health and pride," the committee chair ended.

BLUE

From Page 28

Derrick Rangamar made little headway for Cholos to cut the deficit to 5, 48-53, going into the fourth canto.

In the final frame, Cholos kept Blue Haus within striking distance, but still the former could not overhaul the former's lead after failing to neutralize De Dios. The Blue Haus big man scored 8 of the team's last 10 points to foil Cholos' come-from-behind bid.

Cholos marched into the semis after pulling off an upset against east division finalist MJD Enterprises last week, 90-85.

Cholos ran a balance offense to oust MJD, which was denied the championship for the second straight time after losing the east division finals to Islander, 75-79. Four Cholos players tallied double figures in their 5-point win against MJD with Jun Tabora leading the way with his 24 points. Rangamar added 21, while Rocyl Ritual and Gerald Laguindam recorded 13 and 12, respectively.

Freddie Pelisamen paced MJD with his 25 markers, as he tried to anchor the team's recovery in the fourth canto after falling behind by 12 at the end of the third, 55-67.

Pelisamen scored MJD's last four field goals, but Tabora countered with three baskets, while Laguindam made two to protect Cholos' lead and set up a semis date with Blue Haus.

Meanwhile, GMJ/IKKI and Ask Y U B will collide in a win-or-go home game today with the victor facing Pacific Islands Club in the semifinal match on Tuesday. The remaining squad after these two games will challenge Blue Haus for the league's overall crown.

Semis Game

Blue Haus 70—De Dios 18, Esdrelon 14, Fernando 10, Manalo 6, Talania 6, Moises 5, Velasco 5, Ernie Moises 5, Guiab 4,

Cholos 64—Rangamar 12, Capalad 12, Norita 10, Lizama 8, Hernandez 6, Ritual 6, Zalgatar 4, Tabora 4, Laguindam 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-13, 36-25, 53-48, 70-64.

Quarterfinal Game

Cholos 90— Tabora 24, Rangamar 21, Ritual 13, Laguindam 12, Lizama 8, Capalad 5, Norita 4, Hernandez 4.

MJD 85—Pelisamen 25, Lizama 22, Peredo 20, Bautista 7, Gapor 6, Deocares 5.

Scoring by quarters: 20-22, 35-38, 67-55, 90-85.

2015 SACAN Basketball League Awardees

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Bruce Berline, left, receives his Mythical Five trophy from coordinator Boy Garcia during the awards ceremony for the masters division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League early this month at the San Antonio court.

MJD Enterprises' Jun Tabora shows his Mythical Five trophy.

MJD Enterprises' Randy Mungcal poses with his Mythical Five award.

Jorge De Guzman is the third MJD Enterprises player to make it to the Mythical Five selection.

VM Production's Amor Zapata smiles after getting his Mythical Five award.

MJD Enterprises' Marvin Deocares shows his Best Coach trophy.

MJD Enterprises players flash the No. 1 sign after beating Armatech in the finals, 74-71.

Armatech players settle for the runner-up trophy after bowing to MJD Enterprises in the finals.

Three VM Production players receive their third place trophy.

NFL conducting comprehensive probe on Manning

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Sports

Nowitzki's late jumper propels Mavs past Lakers

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2021 Mini Games could jumpstart new sports vision for healthy community

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth players do football drills during last weekend's clinic at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Having more people getting involved in sports will help make a healthy community.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

2021 Pacific Mini Games Oversight Committee chair Jerry Tan is rallying the CNMI to use the quadrennial event to jumpstart a new vision for Commonwealth sports.

"Let us take this opportunity to make the CNMI a sports powerhouse in our region and at the same time a healthy Commonwealth," said Tan, who was selected to head the committee that will oversee the good governance, accountability, and transparency of the Organizing Committee for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, which will be held on Saipan five years from now.

Tan acknowledged that this new vision will not be achieved overnight, but he pointed out four obvious factors that will help the CNMI move toward its goal, namely: building new sports facilities; having year-round maintenance of facilities; getting high level technical training from professional coaches; and appointing a secretary of sports to cabinet position.

The first key is investing in facilities.

"This is the right time to build new facilities and improve them as we will be hosting the Mini Games. The facilities should meet standards and must last long so that our athletes can continue using them even after the Games are done. Building durable and high-standard facilities will also save us money in the long run," Tan said.

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Blue Haus slams door on Cholos

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus moved closer to winning the overall championship in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after topping Cholos, 70-64, in their semifinal game last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon is fouled by Cholos' Gerald Laguindam during the third quarter of their semis game in the San Antonio caging last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.

Blue Haus, which fell short in its bid for the west division title after bowing to GMJ/IKKI Wholesale in the finals, 81-75, dominated Cholos in the first half and hung on tight in the second to eliminate its foe and advance to the league championship game.

Marlon De Dios, Elmer Esdrelon, and Angelo Fernando teamed up in the semis win, as they combined for more than half of Blue Haus' total output. De Dios led all scorers with his 18 markers, while Esdrelon and Fernando chipped in 14 and 10, respectively. The rest of Blue Haus' players contributed at least 4 points apiece.

With De Dios, Esdrelon, and Fernando working together and getting some help from their teammates, Blue Haus opened a 36-25 halftime lead. The advantage then ballooned to as much as 16 points midway in the third period, 48-32, before Jerome Norita and

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140 sign up for 'Timmy Would Go'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

All is set for the 1st Annual "Timmy Would Go" Memorial Paddle Classic as 140 have already registered for this Saturday's event.

Merissa Rasa, who organizes the outrigger canoe and stand-up paddle board races with husband Ponce, said two teams from Guam (Hoe Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club and Taotao Galaide Outrigger Canoe Club are among the participants and will be joined by members of Saipan's NAPU Outrigger Canoe Club, Saipan Panddling Canoe Club, and Marianas Outrigger Club.. The Rasas are expecting additional entries as they will still accept participants on race day at 8:30am.

Races will be held in the waters behind the Sandy Beach Homes and Surf Club Restaurant (former Pacific Gardenia Hotel) in Chalan Kanoa and will begin at 9:45am after the 9:30am race briefing. The technical meeting and official team registration are scheduled tonight at 6pm.

Preliminary races will take place in the morning session from 9:45pm to 1pm. The OC6 1,500 sprint will kick off the 52 races in the event and will be followed by the OC6 500m sprint. The SUP (stand-up paddle) 500m and 250m sprint races are the last two events.

SUP competition is divided into different age groups: boys and girls 8 to 12; 13

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JON PEREZ

The island's stand-up paddlers will be in the waters in Chalan Kanoa this Saturday for the 1st Annual "Timmy Would Go" Memorial Paddle Classic.